United Nations S/2015/312

Security Council

Distr.: General
8 May 2015

Original: English

Letter dated 5 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to submit to you the decision of the Constitutional Court on the compliance with the Burundian Constitution, adopted by referendum in 2005, of the candidacy of President Pierre Nkurunziza in the 2015 presidential election, adopted this 5 May 2015 (see annex).

I request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Albert **Shingiro**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

15-07352 (E) 110515 120515

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 5 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: French]

The Constitutional Court of Burundi, sitting in Bujumbura to consider a matter concerning interpretation of the Constitution, has issued the following ruling:

Considering the letter of 17 April 2015 from 14 Senators addressed to the President of the Constitutional Court and received by the Registry of the Court on 28 April 2015, whereby application was made to this Court seeking interpretation of articles 96 and 302 of the Constitution of 18 March 2005;

Considering that the application was filed with the Court Registry on 28 April 2015 under No. RCCB 303;

Considering the report by a member of the Court;

Considering the analysis of the application by the Court at its session of 30 April 2015;

1. On the appropriateness of the application

Whereas the application was made by 14 Senators seeking the interpretation of articles 96 and 302 of the Constitution;

Whereas the procedure for making an application for interpretation of the Constitution is set out in article 228, third point, of Act No. 1/010 of 18 March 2005 promulgating the Constitution of the Republic of Burundi;

Whereas the third point of that article provides that the Constitutional Court shall interpret the Constitution at the request of the President of the Republic, the President of the National Assembly, the President of the Senate, one quarter of the members of Parliament or one quarter of the senators;

Whereas this Court has received an application from 14 out of a total of 41 senators;

Whereas one quarter of the senators is calculated to be 11 senators;

And therefore the number of senators who have made application to the Court meets the requirement of article 228, third point, of Act No. 1/010 of 18 March 2005;

Whereas the question of application to the Constitutional Court is also addressed in articles 4 and 5 of Act No. 1/03 of 11 January 2007 amending certain provisions of Act No. 1/018 of 19 December 2002 on the organization and functioning of the Constitutional Court and the applicable procedure;

Whereas, pursuant to article 5 of Act No. 1/03 of 11 January 2007 amending certain provisions of Act No. 1/018 of 19 December 2002 on the organization and functioning of the Constitutional Court and the applicable procedure, the Applicants duly sent notice of their application to the authorities mentioned in article 4 of the Act;

Whereas they also made application to the Court by joint letter under article 6 of the aforementioned Act;

Whereas on the basis of the foregoing the Court finds that it has been appropriately seized;

2. On the competence of the Court

Whereas the question submitted to the Court by the Applicants is one of interpretation of the Constitution;

Whereas the Constitution states, in article 228, third point, that the Constitutional Court has the competence to interpret the Constitution;

Whereas the Constitutional Court therefore has the competence to examine the application before it;

3. On the admissibility of the application

Whereas article 230 (1) of the Constitution provides that the Constitutional Court may be seized by one quarter of the members of the Senate;

Whereas the Applicants are indeed members of the Senate who have requested the Court to interpret provisions of the Constitution pursuant to article 228 thereof;

And therefore the application is admissible;

4. On the interpretation of articles 96 and 302 of the Constitution

Whereas the Applicants are requesting the interpretation of articles 96 and 302 of the Constitution;

Whereas article 96 reads as follows: "The President of the Republic shall be elected by direct universal suffrage for a term of five years, renewable once";

Whereas article 302 reads as follows: "Exceptionally, the first President of the post-transition period shall be elected by the National Assembly and the Senate meeting in joint session, by a two-thirds majority of the members. If such majority is not obtained in the first two rounds, additional rounds shall immediately follow until a candidate obtains the votes of two thirds of the members of Parliament.

In the event that the first President of the Republic of the post-transition period leaves the office vacant, his or her successor shall be elected under the same procedure specified in the preceding paragraph.

The President elected for the first post-transition period may not dissolve Parliament."

In order to analyse the provisions whose interpretation has been requested, it is necessary first to refer to the context and the period in which they were drafted;

Although the wording of article 96 does not pose any problem of interpretation, the same cannot be said of article 302. The word "exceptionally" creates some doubt as to the drafter's actual intention;

In order to understand the spirit of the Constitution, it is wise first to consult the text that was the main inspiration for the drafter in 2005;

The drafter's aims can be sought in the texts that inspired the Burundian drafter, the first and foremost of which was the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement, the true, obligatory and necessary source of inspiration for that drafter;

Whereas the Arusha Agreement was nevertheless not the sole inspiration for the Burundian drafter in 2005;

And other texts, notably the national unity charter adopted by referendum in February 1991, inspired the Burundian drafter without thereby becoming supra-constitutional;

In addition to which it should be recalled that the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement had to be converted into legislation in order to become part of the domestic legal system through a vote of Parliament on Act No. 1/017 of 1 December 2000 on the adoption of the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement;

Whereas, therefore, the interpretation of the provisions in question requires an examination of what the legislator had in mind when drafting the Constitution in 2005;

Whereas the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement, in particular the section on constitutional principles, while not supra-constitutional, is nevertheless the cornerstone of the Constitution;

And anyone who would violate the main constitutional principles of the Agreement cannot claim to respect the Constitution;

And as even the question of the exercise of presidential power is clearly explained in Protocol II;

Whereas the negotiators did wish to prevent any President from holding more than two terms, as is stated in chapter I, article 7, of Protocol II to the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement, concerning the constitutional principles for the Constitution of the post-transition period;

Whereas, according to the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement:

"1. (a) The Constitution shall provide that, save for the very first election of a President, the President of the Republic shall be elected by direct universal suffrage ...

(b) ...

(c) For the first election, which shall be held during the transition period, the President shall be elected indirectly as described below, in article 20 (1).

...

3. She/he shall be elected for a term of five years, renewable only once. No one may hold more than two presidential terms ...".

Whereas a reading of this article clearly shows that the negotiators of the Arusha Agreement did indeed want to limit the number of terms to two, and merely wanted to apply a different election procedure because, as is explained in the "explanatory notes to Protocol II", the situation was not yet calm among the Burundian people;

Whereas, on the matter specifically of article 7 (1) of chapter I on the constitutional principles for the Constitution of the post-transition period, the Bureau of the Committee notes that no agreement was obtained on the mode of election of the President, as the system of politically alternating presidents was considered unworkable, democratically unsustainable or even a source of instability;

Whereas the proposals put forward were mutually exclusive, as the parties on one side proposed to have the President of the Republic elected by the National Assembly and the Senate, and this proposal was challenged by the proponents of election by direct universal suffrage, which would give the President so elected a strong mandate from the people and broad legitimacy;

And given this situation, the Bureau of the Committee fashioned a compromise according to which, given the current political context in Burundi and the need to gradually normalize political life, it was crucial to avoid holding new elections at the end of the transition so as to garner broad support for the first President, whose main priority would be to stabilize the political institutions;

Whereas it should be noted, nevertheless, that the drafter in 2005 misapplied the recommendation from the Arusha Agreement;

Whereas, instead of creating an exception to the election procedure in article 96 as the Agreement had intended, article 302 of the Constitution, owing to its placement in the Constitution under the heading "Special provisions for the post-transition" and the ambiguity of the word "exceptionally", is independent of article 96 of the Constitution and establishes a completely exceptional and special term separate from that established by article 96;

Whereas the application of article 302 postpones the application of the limit on the number of presidential terms under direct universal suffrage provided for in article 96;

And this idea is confirmed, moreover, by article 190 of the Electoral Code of April 2005, adopted just one month after the Constitution was promulgated, which article is the equivalent of article 302 of the Constitution and indicates that this is an exception to the principle set out in article 186 of the Electoral Code of 2005, which is in turn the equivalent of article 96 of the Constitution;

And therefore, while the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement recommended that no President should hold more than two terms, the lack of clarity in article 302 of the Constitution has made a third term possible for a President who governed during the initial post-transition period;

Whereas in their application the Applicants requested this Court to interpret articles 96 and 302 of the Constitution and to state whether one renewal of the current presidential term would comply with the Constitution;

Whereas, according to the analysis above, article 96 means that no more than two terms may be held under direct universal suffrage;

Whereas article 302 established a special term under indirect universal suffrage that has nothing to do with the terms provided for by article 96;

Whereas, as was stated above, the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement is the cornerstone of the Constitution, institutional governance in a republic is nevertheless always based on a Constitution;

And although the letter and spirit of the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement — according to which no President may hold more than two terms — must be respected, the President who was elected pursuant to article 302 of the current Constitution may, without violating the Constitution, renew once only the term to which he was elected by direct universal suffrage;

For these reasons:

The Court,

Considering the Constitution of the Republic of Burundi, and in particular articles 96, 228, 230 and 302 thereof;

Considering Act No. 1/03 of 11 January 2007 amending certain provisions of Act No. 1/018 of 19 December 2002 on the organization and functioning of the Constitutional Court and the applicable procedure, and in particular articles 4 (1), 5 and 6 thereof;

Ruling on the application of 14 Senators and after due legal consideration;

1. Finds that the Court was appropriately seized;

2. Finds that it has the competence to rule on the application for interpretation of articles 96 and 302 of the Constitution;

3. Finds the application admissible;

4. States that article 96 means that the number of terms under direct universal suffrage is limited to two and that article 302 establishes a special term under indirect universal suffrage that has nothing to do with the terms provided for by article 96;

5. Establishes as law that the renewal of the current presidential term for five years one last time by direct universal suffrage is not contrary to the Constitution of the Republic of Burundi of 18 March 2005.

So decided and issued at Bujumbura on 4 May 2015, by Charles Ndagijimana, President of the Court, Sylvère Nimpagaritse, Vice-President, Salvator Ntibazonkiza, Benoît Simbarakiye, Pascal Niyongabo, Aimée-Laurentine Kanyana and Claudine Karenzo, Members, assisted by Béatrice Nahimana, Registrar.

Charles **Ndagijimana**
President of the Court

Sylvère **Nimpagaritse**
Vice-President

Béatrice **Nahimana**
Registrar

Members
Salvator **Ntibazonkiza**
Benoît **Simbarakiye**
Pascal **Niyongabo**
Aimée-Laurentine **Kanyana**
Claudine **Karenzo**

United Nations S/2015/313

Security Council

Distr.: General
6 May 2015

Original: English

Letter dated 6 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to submit to you herewith a press release by the Government of Burundi on the alleged presence of the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda in Burundi (see annex).

I kindly request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Albert **Shingiro**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

15-07177 (E) 110515 110515

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 6 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: French]

Press release by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Burundi concerning the alleged presence of the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda in Burundi

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation has taken note of a press release issued by the Rwandan Ministry of Foreign Affairs dated 4 May 2015 regarding concerns expressed by the Government of Rwanda in response to what it terms the "deterioration in the situation in Burundi".

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation wishes to inform the nation and the international community that peace and security prevail throughout the country, with the exception of a few districts in the capital, Bujumbura, which since 26 April 2015 have been rocked by illegal, violent demonstrations by certain opposition political elements and civil society activists.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation wishes to reassure the Government of Rwanda that no elements of the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda are present on Burundian territory. Opposition political elements and civil society activists have cited the presence of the Forces and of the Interahamwe on Burundian soil with the aim of clouding the good relations of friendship and cooperation existing between these two fraternal countries. In this regard, the Ministry again deplores the base murder by demonstrators of a Congolese national and the torture of a Franco-Burundian citizen, and offers its sympathy to the families concerned.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation wishes to reaffirm its commitment to its policy of good-neighbourliness and to reassure the Government of Rwanda that no Rwandan trouble-makers will be accepted or tolerated on Burundian territory.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation reiterates its gratitude to the Government of Rwanda for its close cooperation with Burundian authorities in the efforts to promote the speedy return of refugees, and hopes that the region and the international community as a whole will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with the people and Government of Burundi in supporting the ongoing electoral process as the only means of consolidating democracy, peace and stability in Burundi and the region.

Bujumbura, 6 May 2015

United Nations A/69/893–S/2015/314

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
7 May 2015

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 33
Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 6 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, dated 5 May 2015, regarding the death of 12-year-old Irakli Tsaava, a resident of the Russian-occupied Georgian region of Abkhazia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 33, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kaha **Imnadze**
Permanent Representative

15-07266 (E) 140515

Please recycle

Annex to the identical letters dated 6 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia regarding the death of 12-year-old Irakli Tsaava, a resident of the Russian-occupied Georgian region of Abkhazia

5 May 2015

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia expresses its deep concern over yet another illegal action of the Russian occupation troops, which resulted in the death of Irakli Tsaava, 12 years of age, who lived in the village of Kvemo Barghebi, in the Gali district of the Abkhazia region of Georgia. On 4 May 2015, Irakli Tsaava, having severe health problems, attempted to enter the territory controlled by the central authorities of Georgia with the aim of receiving medical care, but he was prevented by Russian occupation troops from crossing the occupation line and died as a result of the refusal of medical care.

This incident provides yet additional proof of the dire human rights situation in Georgia's occupied territories.

Despite repeated calls by the international community, the Russian occupation troops continue to grossly violate human rights, including the right to free movement, which in many cases leads to fatal consequences. The situation becomes all the more alarming given the absence of international monitoring mechanisms in Georgia's occupied territories. The European Union Monitoring Mission is still prevented from carrying out monitoring on the ground, and representatives of the international organizations are denied access to the occupied territories.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia calls upon the Russian Federation, which is the country exercising effective control in the occupied Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions of Georgia, to show respect for the fundamental rights of the population residing in the occupied territories and not to politicize the humanitarian issues.

United Nations S/2015/315

Security Council

Distr.: General
6 May 2015

Original: English

Letter dated 6 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to submit to you the address to the nation delivered by the President of the Republic of Burundi, Pierre Nkurunziza, on 6 May 2015 (see annex).

I kindly request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Albert **Shingiro**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

15-07187 (E) 080515 080515

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 6 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: French]

Address to the nation by Pierre Nkurunziza, President of the Republic

Dear Burundians and friends of Burundi,

1. Allow me, at the outset, to give thanks to Almighty God, who guides and assists all our efforts to consolidate peace, reconcile our people and advance our country's development. All honour and glory be to Him.

2. Recently our country has been going through an especially difficult period. Violence has increased, particularly since the National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for the Defence of Democracy officially nominated a candidate for the upcoming presidential election. It was this nomination that triggered the ongoing demonstrations, as it was regarded in some quarters as unconstitutional.

3. In accordance with article 228 of the Constitution, the Senate put the matter before the Constitutional Court, which has just ruled that a decision by direct universal suffrage to renew the mandate of the incumbent President would not violate the Burundian Constitution of 18 March 2005.

Fellow countrymen and women and friends of Burundi,

4. Good governance is woven of respect for the law, the principles of dialogue and consensus, the defence of democracy and the promotion of human rights.

5. With this conviction in mind, I should like to bring the following to the attention of the national and international community:

(a) I have taken due note of the Constitutional Court's ruling in its entirety and pledge to abide by it;

(b) I hereby inform the national and international community that if the Burundian people again put their faith in me, this will be my final term of office, as stipulated in the ruling of the Constitutional Court;

(c) I call upon Burundi's partners and friends to play a more active role in strengthening the peace and security gains we have made and in supporting our country's development efforts;

(d) I pledge to continue the efforts towards lasting national reconciliation that have been made since the signing of the Arusha Agreement and the Global Ceasefire Agreement, on which the current Constitution is based;

(e) In the interest of consolidating peace throughout the country, I ask that special protection be extended to internally displaced persons still living at the sites provided for them;

(f) I welcome the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as a means of helping Burundians to know the truth about all the troubles that have beset the country since it gained independence;

(g) I call on political leaders and certain civil society organizations to stop using civilians, particularly children, as human shields in acts of violence. All schoolchildren and students should go back to class without delay; they belong in school, not in the streets. I therefore order the immediate release of all children under the age of 18 who have been arrested during the demonstrations;

(h) All primary- and secondary-school examinations should take place as originally scheduled. I ask law enforcement to provide security at the sites of such examinations;

(i) Adults who have been arrested and jailed because of the demonstrations may also be released, once the movement has ceased;

(j) I regard the protection of civilians as a priority;

(k) I call on political leaders to go out and mobilize their party members to ensure a large turnout in the upcoming elections. This is the only foreseeable solution to the current problem.

Fellow countrymen and women and friends of Burundi,

6. The demonstrations now taking place, particularly in our country's capital, have caused enormous and multifaceted damage. I regret the loss of human life that has occurred since the start of the violence, both among civilians and among the defence and security forces. I offer my deepest condolences to the bereaved families.

7. To all stakeholders involved in the forthcoming elections, I am happy to announce that measures have been taken to ensure a peaceful electoral campaign. I wish to reassure the national and international community that the electoral process will be free, transparent and inclusive, and will be conducted in an atmosphere of calm.

8. Once again, I call on the international community, the United Nations, the European Union, the African Union, the East African Community and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region to come to Burundi in order to witness the electoral process.

9. I invite the men and women of the media to regroup and to do their work in strict compliance with their professional code of ethics.

10. I call on the National Communication Council to monitor the situation closely on a daily basis. Journalists should bear in mind the two important aspects of their duties: to provide people with information and to strengthen peace and reconciliation among Burundians.

Fellow countrymen and women and friends of Burundi,

11. In conclusion, I would like to call on my fellow citizens to remain calm and to comply with the decisions of public institutions.

12. To those politicians who might have claims to make, I call upon them to do so in accordance with the law and to express them clearly, so as to safeguard the peace and security achieved in Burundi.

13. I invite the people of Burundi to remain calm. It is my pledge that, if elected, I will continue working to consolidate peace and to promote the comprehensive development of our beloved country.

14. I call upon all Burundians and foreigners living in Burundi to reject any action that could undermine peace and security, which were regained at such great cost to our country and which must be maintained.

15. I call for an immediate end to the ongoing demonstrations so that we can prepare for the elections with peace in our hearts and continue to build a united, peaceful and prosperous Burundi.

16. God bless Burundi and Burundians. Thank you.

United Nations S/2015/316

Security Council

Distr.: General
7 May 2015

Original: English

Letter dated 6 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you a letter dated 5 May 2015 from the Representative of the Syrian National Coalition (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Matthew **Rycroft**

15-07189 (E) 080515

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 6 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

It is with great concern that I draw your attention to an alarming proliferation of chlorine gas attacks perpetrated by Syrian regime forces in Idlib and Hama governorates, and the urgent need for Security Council action to prevent further atrocities, including through the imposition of measures under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, as decided by the Council in its resolutions 2118 (2013) and 2209 (2015).

In the past two weeks alone, witnesses and medics on the ground in Idlib and Hama governorates reported at least nine separate instances of toxic chemical attacks — several of them deadly. As described in the enclosure to the present annex, in each instance, barrel bombs loaded with poisonous chemical substances were deployed from Syrian regime helicopters. More than 150 civilians sustained injuries as a result of these attacks and suffered symptoms ranging from suffocation to laboured breathing. At least two children died as a result of the attacks, both of whom were under the age of three.

It is highly likely that the chemical agent responsible for causing such suffering was once again chlorine gas. Lethal when deployed for military purposes, chlorine's use as a chemical weapon constitutes a war crime as defined by the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed in Geneva on 17 June 1925, and to which Syria acceded on 22 November 1968. It also represents a direct violation of Security Council resolutions 2118 (2013) and 2209 (2015).

Since the adoption of Security Council resolution 2118 (2013) in September 2013, the will of the Council has been repeatedly, systematically and wilfully violated. More than 92 separate incidents of chemical weapons use have been recorded since the adoption of resolution 2118 (2013), including more than 25 separate incidents since the adoption of resolution 2209 (2015), just two months ago. But this past week's atrocities represent the most prolific use of chemical weapons by Syrian regime forces to date. Syrian civil defence teams are struggling to keep pace with the growing increase in chemical weapons use by Syrian regime forces — and Syrian civilians are dying as a result.

The failure to enforce Security Council resolutions 2118 (2013) and 2209 (2015) represents a permanent stain on the international community, and the Council in particular. The failure to enforce the will of the Council has allowed impunity to reign. It has cost lives in Syria and it has prolonged the crisis, fuelling the rise of terrorist extremist groups like ISIL and imperiling regional and now global security.

Existing resolutions on Syria can and must be enforced, including through the adoption of measures under Chapter VII of the Charter, as mandated by the Security Council in its resolutions 2118 (2013) and 2209 (2015). Without such enforcement, more civilians will die, and this conflict will continue to threaten international peace and security.

On behalf of the people of Syria and the National Coalition of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces, I am therefore calling upon the Security Council to work without delay to:

(a) **Stop the systematic use of chlorine gas through the implementation of a safe zone enforced by a no-fly zone.** A no-fly zone would put an immediate end to Assad's deployment of chemical gas by air. It would save lives, alleviate suffering and begin to lay the foundation towards a political solution;

(b) **Name and shame those responsible for the chlorine gas attacks.** To date, the Fact-Finding Mission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons has not been mandated to determine responsibility for the use of chlorine gas. The reason for this is clear: one member of the Security Council wishes to ensure a lack of accountability. This must change. Anyone and everyone responsible for the use of chemical weapons must be identified and held accountable in a court of law;

(c) **Pursue justice through all legal means.** A lack of consensus among Security Council members continues to prevent the Council from authorizing the foremost instrument capable of delivering justice to victims: an International Criminal Court referral. If the Security Council is incapable of referring the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court because of the irresponsible use of the veto, concerned Member States should establish an alternative mechanism, such as an ad hoc tribunal.

The priority of the Syrian National Coalition is to save the lives of our people. There is no reason that one more Syrian should be gassed to death by a brutal dictator intent on exploiting his monopoly of air power to barrel bomb his own people into submission. To stop the barrel bombs in Syria, the Security Council must deny the regime's ability to kill by air. A no-fly zone is the best way to do so. Should the Security Council fail to reach the consensus needed to authorize a safe zone, then I urge Member States to act on their own legal and moral authority to save lives in Syria and take the steps necessary to provide protection to our people.

Enclosure

Reported cases of chemical weapons attacks in Idlib and Hama, Syria

16 April-3 May 2015

16 April 2015	Two barrel bombs were deployed in Idlib city's Al Dbeyt area, resulting in seven victims, among them four children.
26 April 2015	Barrel bombs carrying chlorine gas were deployed in the Hwash village of the Hama countryside at approximately 10 p.m. Twenty-six civilians sustained injuries, including a two-year-old.
28 April 2015	Barrel bombs loaded with toxic chemical gas fell on Karsa'a, a village in the countryside of Idlib. Ten cases of suffocation were reported in Karsa'a, and three in Korin.
29 April 2015	Two bombs carrying chlorine gas were deployed in the western countryside of Hama.
29 April 2015	Two barrel bombs containing deadly chlorine gas hit a medical clinic in Sarqb, a suburb of Idlib, at 3 a.m. local time. The 12 victims present at the site — including 2 children — suffered symptoms including suffocation and required immediate medical attention.
1 May 2015	Five barrel bombs equipped with chlorine gas were dropped by regime helicopters on Qulaydin village in Ghab plain, Idlib.
1 May 2015	Barrel bombs containing toxic chemical gas were launched in Sarqb, Idlib. More than 70 civilians suffered injuries and suffocation, including two-year-old Mutee Jalal who suffocated to death.
2 May 2015	Two barrel bombs filled with chlorine gas were dropped on the villages of Sarqb and Nairab, Idlib. At least 40 civilians, including children, suffered respiratory problems following the attacks, including baby Mustafa Haj Ali who died of suffocation.
3 May 2015	Barrel bombs containing chemical gases were dropped on Eblien and in Jabalpur Zawiyeh, Idlib.

United Nations S/2015/317

Security Council

Distr.: General
8 May 2015

Original: English

Identical letters dated 6 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

The State of Qatar being the Chair of the thirty-fifth session of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, I write to bring to your attention the following:

On 5 and 6 May 2015, the Houthi militias launched a number of random mortar shells and Katyusha rockets targeting schools and a field hospital in the city of Najran, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Those terrorist acts by the Houthi militias left a number of people dead or wounded, in a flagrant violation of the security and safety of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. They also violate the relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 2216 (2015), and are consistent with the Houthis' total rejection of the said resolution.

Those terrorist acts also aim to undermine the humanitarian action initiative by the leadership of the coalition in support of legitimacy in Yemen to respond to the needs of the Yemeni people through the implementation of humanitarian pauses for specified periods in order to carry out the initiative and deliver humanitarian aid. This confirms once again that the Houthi militias continue to defy international law's legitimacy and refuse to engage in the political process in Yemen, causing a serious escalation of the crisis in Yemen and a severe deterioration of the humanitarian situation, which consists of a further violation of the above-mentioned resolution.

We affirm that the coalition is taking appropriate measures, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, to respond to the terrorist acts, counter the crimes of the foreign-funded and foreign-backed terrorist militias and protect the security and safety of the region, the sovereignty and borders of Saudi Arabia and the security and safety of Saudi and Yemeni citizens.

We once again call upon the Security Council to carry out its responsibilities and demand that all parties, and in particular the Houthis and their allies, fully implement the Council's relevant resolutions, including resolution 2216 (2015), and to take appropriate measures against all parties that have not committed to its resolutions and the countries supporting and associating with the Houthi militias in their terrorist crimes and their threat to the region's security and safety and international peace and security.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Alya Ahmed S. **Al-Thani**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

15-07331 (E) 110515

Please recycle

United Nations A/69/895–S/2015/318

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
8 May 2015
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Sixty-ninth session
Agenda items 51 and 60

Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

Security Council
Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 7 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

In yet another flagrant violation of the Geneva Conventions and in blatant disregard of authoritative international resolutions calling for Israel, the occupying Power, to end its occupation of the Syrian Arab Golan and halt its hostile practices and brazen contravention of all international instruments and norms, the occupying Israeli authorities confiscated thousands of dunums of land in the occupied Syrian Golan. The confiscated land is to be allocated to settlers who are being brought in to start farming projects. The Israeli authorities have also begun to conduct exploratory drilling for oil in the occupied Syrian Golan.

In implementation of these "farming projects", the Israeli occupying authorities have begun to establish 750 new farms, the smallest of which will be 65 dunums. This year, 90 Israeli families have been brought in to settle those farms. Some 150 additional families will be brought in each year, until the total number reaches 750 families. At the same time, Israel has appropriated water resources to irrigate these farms, thereby depleting the water resources of the occupied Syrian Golan and depriving Syrian nationals of those resources. In addition, the Israeli company Afek has begun to drill for oil in the occupied Syrian Golan, near the so-called Natur settlement. That company is about end drilling at the first exploratory site and will begin drilling at the second site this month.

Those actions by Israel are in stark violation of international law, the Geneva Conventions and Security Council resolution 497 (1981), in which the Council

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deemed that the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights is null and void and without international legal effect. In that same resolution, the Council determined that all the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 continue to apply to the Syrian territory occupied by Israel since June 1967.

Those actions also contravene authoritative international resolutions, including the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, which affirm that Israel's settlement building and other activities in the occupied Syrian Golan are unlawful and illegal. Those resolutions furthermore call on Israel, the occupying Power, to preserve the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan, and to safeguard the territory's water and various other natural resources, which belong, by right, to the citizens of Syria living under occupation. Israel's actions also violate United Nations resolutions, the most recent of which is General Assembly resolution 69/241 entitled "Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources". In that resolution, the Assembly affirms the inalienable rights of the population of the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources, including land, water and energy resources, and demands that Israel, the occupying Power, cease the exploitation, damage, cause of loss or depletion and endangerment of those resources.

As Syria had indicated in its previous letters, this Israeli colonization campaign is being carried out even as Israel continues to violate human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan. On 25 February 2015, Israeli occupying forces rearrested the Syrian national Sidqi al-Maqt, and then, on 2 March 2015, they detained Sheikh Atif Darwish, from the occupied village of Buq'ata, and Fida' Majid al-Sha'ir, from the occupied village of Majdal Shams. Those illegal practices are yet another entry in Israel's shameful record, which is replete with such crimes as sowing fear, terrorism, forced displacement, the razing of Syrian villages, the plundering of natural resources and the destruction of historical monuments and the environment.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic calls on the Secretary-General and the Security Council to take immediate measures to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to halt its illegal acts of aggression in the occupied Syrian Golan. It also reiterates that the stability of the Middle East and the credibility of the United Nations require the Organization and the Security Council to take such measures as are necessary to ensure implementation of the relevant international resolutions, including Security Council resolution 497 (1981), by compelling the Israeli occupying authorities to halt their hostile practices and withdraw fully from the occupied Syrian Golan, to the line of June 1967.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 51 and 60, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic
to the United Nations

United Nations A/69/894–S/2015/319

General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 35
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 28 April 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a statistical summary of Israeli violations of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) committed during the month of March 2015 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued as a document of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 35, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 28 April 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Land violations

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
1 March 2015	0955	Israeli enemy soldiers stationed at the enemy's Hanita post in occupied Palestinian territory, opposite Alma al-Sha'b, pointed the cannon of a Merkava tank towards Lebanese Army soldiers in the area of post L130.
	1035	Israeli enemy soldiers stationed at the enemy's Hanita post in occupied Palestinian territory, opposite Alma al-Sha'b, pointed the cannon of a Merkava tank towards Lebanese Army soldiers in the area of post L130.
	1100	Israeli enemy soldiers stationed at the enemy's Hanita post in occupied Palestinian territory, opposite Alma al-Sha'b, pointed the cannon of a Merkava tank towards Lebanese Army soldiers in the area of post L130.
	1110	Israeli enemy soldiers stationed at the enemy's Hanita post in occupied Palestinian territory, opposite Alma al-Sha'b, pointed the cannon of a Merkava tank towards Lebanese Army soldiers in the area of post L130.
	1155	Israeli enemy soldiers stationed at the enemy's Hanita East 1 post in occupied Palestinian territory, opposite Alma al-Sha'b, pointed the cannon of a Merkava tank towards Lebanese Army soldiers in the area of post L130.
	1200 1225	Israeli enemy soldiers positioned between the enemy's Hanita and Hanita East 1 posts in occupied Palestinian territory, opposite Alma al-Sha'b, pointed the cannon of a Merkava tank towards Lebanese Army soldiers in the area of post L130.
	1240	Israeli enemy soldiers stationed at the enemy's Hanita post in occupied Palestinian territory, opposite Alma al-Sha'b, pointed the cannon of a Merkava tank towards Lebanese Army soldiers in the area of post L130.
	1320	Israeli enemy soldiers stationed at the enemy's Hanita post in occupied Palestinian territory, opposite Alma al-Sha'b, pointed the cannon of a Merkava tank towards Lebanese Army soldiers in the area of post L130.
	1540	Israeli enemy soldiers positioned between the enemy's Hanita and Hanita East 1 posts in occupied Palestinian territory, opposite Alma al-Sha'b, pointed the cannon of a Merkava tank towards Lebanese Army soldiers in the area of post L130.
	1605	Israeli enemy soldiers stationed at the enemy's Hanita post in occupied Palestinian territory, opposite Alma al-Sha'b, pointed the cannon of a Merkava tank towards Lebanese Army soldiers in the area of post L130.
4 March 2015	1110	Israeli enemy soldiers stationed at the enemy's Hanita post in occupied Palestinian territory, opposite Alma al-Sha'b, pointed the cannon of a Merkava tank towards Lebanese Army soldiers in the area of post L130.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
	1150 1200	Israeli enemy soldiers stationed at the enemy's Hanita and Hanita East 1 posts in occupied Palestinian territory, opposite Alma al-Sha'b, pointed the cannons two Merkava tank towards Lebanese Army soldiers in the area of post L130.
	1200 1430	Israeli enemy soldiers stationed at the enemy's Hanita East 1 post in occupied Palestinian territory, opposite Alma al-Sha'b, pointed the cannon of a Merkava tank towards Lebanese Army soldiers in the area of post L130.
	1655	Israeli enemy soldiers stationed at the enemy's Hanita East 1 post in occupied Palestinian territory, opposite Alma al-Sha'b, pointed the cannon of a Merkava tank towards Lebanese Army soldiers in the area of post L130.
5 March 2015	1445	A Merkava tank moved from the Hanita East 1 in occupied Palestinian territory and positioned itself at the entrance of the Tall Murad position. It then proceeded to point its cannon towards a Lebanese Army post.
6 March 2015	1430	As a Lebanese Army patrol was reconnoitring the border in the area of Birkat Ba'thanil, on the outskirts of Kafr Shuba, two Israeli enemy tracked vehicles arrived from the Summaqah position inside the occupied Shab'a Farms and stopped next to the barbed-wire fence, near Birkat Ba'thanil. The enemy soldiers who were travelling in those vehicles spread out and took up combat positions in occupied territory and fired into the air. At 1500 hours, the two vehicles and the soldiers headed back to the Summaqah position.
	1900	From the Tall al-Rahib position in occupied Palestinian territory, the Israeli enemy directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territory.
	1910	From the Tall al-Rahib position south of Alma al-Sha'b, the Israeli enemy directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territory.
8 March 2015	1245	Israeli enemy soldiers at the enemy's Hanita post inside occupied Palestinian territory, opposite Alma al-Sha'b, pointed the cannon of a Merkava tank towards Lebanese Army soldiers in the area of post L130.
	1245 1355	From inside the occupied Shab'a Farms, the Israeli enemy sprayed the perimeter of its Summaqah and Ruwaysat al-Alam positions using machine guns and medium weapons. The sound of vehicles moving was also heard.
9 March 2015	1830 1845	Israeli enemy soldiers at the enemy's Hanita 1 and Hanita 2 posts inside occupied Palestinian territory, opposite Alma al-Sha'b, twice directed a green laser beam for a period of 10 seconds towards Lebanese Army post L130.
10 March 2015	0920	Israeli enemy soldiers at the Jal al-Alam position in occupied Palestinian territory, opposite Labbunah, threw stones and directed insults at a Lebanese Army patrol.
	0956	As a Lebanese Army patrol was passing through the outskirts of Kafr Shuba, in the area of Birkat Ba'thanil, members of an Israeli enemy patrol in occupied territory fired five rounds into the air towards Lebanese territory. At 1000 hours, that same enemy patrol fired 11 rounds into air towards a Lebanese Army patrol, but did not strike anyone.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
	1245 1300	A 12-man Israeli patrol crossed the line of withdrawal in the Bastra area, on the outskirts of the town of Shab'a. The patrol moved 50 metres into liberated Lebanese territory and then set off a smoke bomb as it withdrew to conceal its movement.
	1405	Israeli enemy troops in the occupied Shab'a Farms fired five rounds into the air towards a Lebanese Army patrol that was in the Bastra area, inside Lebanese territory. No one was injured.
	1525	As a Lebanese civilian was near Kafwa farm, which is located in Lebanese territory on the outskirts of the Shab'a Farms, a member of an Israeli enemy patrol that was in occupied territory fired three rounds into the air towards Lebanese territory. No one was injured.
14 March 2015	2205	An Israeli enemy patrol comprising three Hummer vehicles stopped near point B89, opposite the town of Kafr Shuba. Three patrol members carrying flashlights descended and opened the gate at the above-mentioned point. They then crossed the technical fence and entered Lebanese territory, going some 10 metres beyond the Blue Line. They reconnoitred the area for approximately 15 minutes before returning to occupied territory and closing the gate.
15 March 2015	1520	Six Israeli enemy troops proceeded from the Rumaysh gate position in occupied Palestinian territory and spread out opposite the Rumaysh gate. One of the soldiers pointed a MAG machine gun towards Lebanese territory.
18 March 2015	1045	As an Israeli enemy patrol was performing maintenance work on the technical fence in occupied Palestinian territory near point B82, opposite Kafr Killa, a number of Lebanese journalists happened to pass by on the Lebanese side. When they stopped to observe the patrol, one if its members asked the journalists to leave and other patrol members made obscene gestures at them. At 1125 hours, the patrol returned to occupied territory.
	1134	In occupied Palestinian territory, opposite Rumaysh, the crew of a Merkava tank pointed the tank's cannon for five minutes towards Observer Group Lebanon personnel who were conducting a routine patrol along the Blue Line.
	1315	In occupied Palestinian territory, at a point opposite Rumaysh, in the area of Wadi Qatmun, near the Khallat al-Budiyah site, some 20 Israeli enemy soldiers crossed two metres beyond the technical fence. The reconnoitred the area without crossing the Blue Line. At 1245 hours, they returned to occupied territory escorted by a Merkava tank and a light vehicle that had come from inside occupied territory.
25 March 2015	2050	The Israeli enemy fired a flare shell over the Radar position in the occupied Shab'a Farms.
26 March 2015	1110 1310	The sound of explosions was heard in the occupied Shab'a Farms.
	2130 2225	The sound of four explosions was heard near the Israeli enemy's position at Ruwaysat al-Alam in the occupied Shab'a Farms.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
31 March 2015	0750 0822	From its position at Jall al-Alam in occupied Palestinian territory, the Israeli enemy pointed vehicle-mounted weapons towards a Lebanese Army patrol in Labbunah.
	2110 2340	From one of its positions in occupied Palestinian territory, the Israeli enemy fired flare shells over the Wazzani resort, which is located in Lebanese territory.
	2205	From one of its positions in occupied Palestinian territory, the Israeli enemy fired two flare shells over Ruwaysat al-Alam in the occupied Shab'a Farms.

Sea violations

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
2 March 2015	0340	Opposite Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy military launch crossed the so-called line of buoys, in the area of buoy No. 4, and proceeded 10 metres towards Lebanese territorial waters. At that time, a Lebanese fishing boat was present in that area of Lebanese territorial waters. The crew of the enemy launch threatened the fishing boat's crew. The launch then returned towards occupied Palestinian territorial waters.
	0420	From its position in occupied Palestinian territory, opposite Ra's al-Naqurah, the Israeli enemy directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territorial waters for 30 seconds.
10 March 2015	0040 0325	From its position in occupied Palestinian territory, opposite Ra's al-Naqurah, the Israeli enemy directed a searchlight several times towards Lebanese territorial waters, each time for a period of 30 seconds.
	0712	Opposite Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy military launch violated the southern maritime boundary established by Decree No. 6433 (2011) of 1 October 2011. The launch proceeded 550 metres into Lebanese territorial waters before leaving at 0715 hours. The launch returned at 0745 hours and once again violated the above-mentioned boundary, proceeding 100 metres into Lebanese territorial waters. It left at 1030 hours.
	1035	A ferry carrying building material, a crane and equipment carried out indeterminate work above and below the surface of the sea in occupied Palestinian territory, approximately 100 metres to the south of buoy No. 2, opposite Ra's al-Naqurah. The ferry was escorted by an enemy military launch.
11 March 2015	0330	From its position in occupied Palestinian territory opposite Ra's al-Naqurah, the Israeli enemy directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territorial waters for 30 seconds.
	0450	Opposite Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli enemy military launch violated the southern maritime boundary established by Decree No. 6433 (2011) of 1 October 2011. The launch proceeded 100 metres into Lebanese territorial waters before leaving at 0455 hours.
17 March 2015	1205	A ferry carrying building material, a crane and equipment carried out indeterminate work above and below the surface of the sea in occupied Palestinian territory, approximately 500 metres to the south of buoy No. 4, opposite Ra's al-Naqurah. The ferry was escorted by an enemy military launch.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
	2115	From its position in occupied Palestinian territory opposite Ra's al-Naqurah, the Israeli enemy directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territorial waters.
18 March 2015	0130	From its position in occupied Palestinian territory opposite Ra's al-Naqurah, the Israeli enemy directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territorial waters for 30 seconds.
20 March 2015	2135	From its position in occupied Palestinian territory opposite Ra's al-Naqurah, the Israeli enemy directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territorial waters for 20 seconds.
	2200	From its position in occupied Palestinian territory opposite Ra's al-Naqurah, the Israeli enemy directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territorial waters for 20 seconds.
25 March 2015	2205	From its position in occupied Palestinian territory opposite Ra's al-Naqurah, the Israeli enemy directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territorial waters for 20 seconds.
30 March 2015	0445	From its position in occupied Palestinian territory opposite Ra's al-Naqurah, the Israeli enemy directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territorial waters for 30 seconds.

Air violations

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
3 March 2015	0810	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over Riyaq, Baalbek, Hirmil and the South before leaving at 1755 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
5 March 2015	0910	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over Riyaq and Baalbek before leaving at 1825 hours over Kafr Killa.
	0925	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over Beirut and its suburbs, Jubayl, Batrun and Bishri before leaving at 1500 hours over Rumaysh.
6 March 2015	0930	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over the South, Beirut and its suburbs, Riyaq, Baalbek and Hirmil before leaving at 1750 hours over Kafr Killa.
7 March 2015	2305	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over Iqlim al-Kharrub and the South before leaving at 0930 hours on 8 March 2015 over Rumaysh.
8 March 2015	0940	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over the South, Riyaq, Baalbek and Hirmil before leaving at 1445 hours over Naqurah.
10 March 2015	1425	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea off Juniyah. They circled over Riyaq, Baalbek, Batrun and Juniyah before leaving at 1530 hours off the sea off Batrun.
	1500	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over the South before leaving at 1715 hours over Kafr Killa.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
	1545	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea off Juniyah. It circled over Riyaq, Baalbek and Jubayl before leaving at 1700 hours off the sea off Naqurah.
	1915	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over the South before leaving at 2040 hours over the occupied Shab'a Farms.
11 March 2015	1000	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea off Shikka. They circled over Shikka and Beirut before leaving at 1050 hours over the sea off Naqurah.
	1230	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea west of Shikka. They circled over Shikka, Al-Arz and Jubayl before leaving at 1325 hours over the sea off Naqurah.
	1255	Four Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1415 hours over the sea off Naqurah.
13 March 2015	0620	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over Riyaq, Baalbek and Zahlah before leaving at 2245 hours over Kafr Killa.
	2130	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over Riyaq, Baalbek and Hirmil before leaving at 1350 hours on 14 March 2015 over Kafr Killa.
14 March 2015	1305	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over Riyaq, Baalbek and Hirmil before leaving at 0710 hours on 15 March 2015 over Kafr Killa.
15 March 2015	0840	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea off Batrun. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1000 hours over the sea off Naqurah.
	0920	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. It circled over Riyaq and Baalbek before leaving at 1610 hours over Naqurah.
	1155	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1230 hours over the sea off Naqurah.
18 March 2015	0635	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over Riyaq, Baalbek, Hirmil and the South before leaving at 2125 hours over Naqurah.
	1100	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1215 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
	1535	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Aytarun. It circled over Riyaq and Baalbek before leaving at 2040 hours over Kafr Killa.
	1645 1700	Two Israeli enemy helicopters circled over the occupied Shab'a Farms.
	1945	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over the South before leaving at 0630 hours on 19 March 2015 over Alma al-Sha'b.
19 March 2015	0645	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea off Juniyah. It circled over Riyaq, Baalbek and Hirmil before leaving at 1020 hours overthc sea off Naqurah.
23 March 2015	0610	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over the South, Riyaq and Baalbek before leaving at 1705 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	0900	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Aytarun. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1035 hours over Aytarun.
	0910	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the Shab'a Farms. It circled over Riyaq, Baalbek, the South and the Western Bekaa before leaving at 1435 hours over Naqurah.
	1120	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea off Naqurah. It circled over the sea between Juniyah and Batrun before leaving at 1355 hours over the sea west of Naqurah.
24 March 2015	0625	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over Riyaq, Baalbek and Hirmil before leaving at 0055 hours on 25 March 2015 over Alma al-Sha'b.
	0940	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1125 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	1240	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over the Western Bekaa and the South before leaving at 1725 hours over Rumaysh.
	1805	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1900 hours over the sea off Naqurah.
	2215	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. It circled over Baalbek, Hirmil and Al-Arz before leaving at 0815 hours on 25 March 2015 over Rumaysh.
25 March 2015	0650	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea off Beirut. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 0750 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
	0745	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over Riyaq, Baalbek and Hirmil before leaving at 2100 hours over Rumaysh.
	0825	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over the Shuf and Beirut before leaving at 1500 hours over Rumaysh.
	0940	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1125 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	1800	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over Riyaq, Baalbek and Hirmil before leaving at 0720 hours on 26 March 2015 over Kafr Killa.
	1905	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1950 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	2010	An Israeli enemy warplane violated Lebanese airspace and launched a decoy flare over Lebanese territorial waters off Ra's al-Naqurah.
	2215	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. It circled over Baalbek, Hirmil and Al-Arz before leaving at 0815 hours on 26 March 2015 over Rumaysh.
26 March 2015	0705	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over the South before leaving at 1615 hours over Naqurah.
	0800	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over Riyaq, Baalbek and Hirmil before leaving at 1815 hours over Rumaysh.
	1615	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over Riyaq, Baalbek and Hirmil before leaving at 2315 hours over the Shab'a Farms.
27 March 2015	0915	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over the South and the Western Bekaa before leaving at 1245 hours over Naqurah.
31 March 2015	1155	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea off Naqurah. It circled over the sea off Juniyah, Batrun and Beirut before leaving at 1800 hours over the sea off Naqurah.

United Nations S/2015/320

Security Council

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7 May 2015

Original: English

Thirty-sixth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

I. Introduction

1. By its resolution 2162 (2014), the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) until 30 June 2015, and requested me to keep it informed of the situation on the ground and the implementation of that resolution. The present report provides an update on major developments since my report of 12 December 2014 (S/2014/892) and recommendations for extending the mandate of UNOCI.

II. Political situation

2. The political landscape in Côte d'Ivoire was dominated by preparations for the presidential election to be held on 25 October 2015, with political parties increasingly forming alliances and consolidating support. President Alassane Ouattara and his Government continued to take steps to advance political dialogue with the opposition with a view to easing political tensions.

3. Political dialogue between the Government and Front populaire ivoirien (FPI), the former ruling party, resumed on 29 December, within the context of the permanent framework for dialogue. Discussions focused on the release of persons detained for alleged violations committed during the post-elections crisis in 2010 and 2011, as well the unfreezing of the bank accounts and right of return to Côte d'Ivoire for persons affiliated with the previous regime living outside the country. In December and January, as a conciliatory gesture, a total of 63 detainees were released on bail. Out of the 659 persons detained in connection with the crisis, 321 remain in detention. On 21 January, the bank accounts of 31 associates of former President Laurent Gbagbo were unfrozen, including that of the FPI President, Pascal Affi N'Guessan. The Committee for the Restitution of Illegally Occupied Public or Private Sites reported that of the 1,037 claims it had received, as at 1 May 472 illegally occupied properties had been vacated and 155 claims were under consideration.

4. Broader political dialogue between opposition parties and the Government, which had stalled since May 2014, resumed on 29 January, covering issues of concern for opposition parties, including public funding of political parties, the status of the opposition and preparations for the presidential election. The

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Government agreed, on an exceptional basis, to finance political parties ahead of the election, dispersing as of 1 May CFA 1 billion, with 40 per cent allotted to FPI.

5. Meanwhile, political posturing and pre-campaign activities intensified. On 6 December, the executive board of Rassemblement des houphouëtistes pour la démocratie et la paix (RHDP) resumed its activities after three years of inactivity, with a view to strengthening the coalition for President Ouattara's re-election bid. Also in December, four members of Parti démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI), including the former President of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Charles Konan Banny, announced their intention to run in the presidential election. Those declarations were contrary to the "Daoukro call" of 17 September 2014 by the PDCI President, former President Henri Konan Bedié, for RHDP to mobilize behind President Ouattara as the sole candidate of the coalition.

6. Despite some resistance, the ruling coalition remained unified. On 28 February, PDCI held its fifth extraordinary congress in Abidjan, at which more than 98 per cent of delegates voted in favour of the "Daoukro call", thereby endorsing President Ouattara as the RHDP coalition's sole candidate and abrogating the decision taken during the October 2013 PDCI congress that the party would field a candidate. The four PDCI members who had announced their candidature boycotted the congress; the party advised them to run as independent candidates. On 8 March, President Ouattara announced that the ruling party Rassemblement des républicains (RDR) would merge with PDCI after the presidential election and that no change would be made to the Constitution prior to the election, including article 35, on the eligibility criteria for presidential candidates. There have been persisting calls within elements of the political opposition and civil society regarding President Ouattara's eligibility to run under article 35. On 22 March, RDR formally endorsed the candidacy of President Ouattara at an extraordinary congress. Subsequently, at a mass rally in Abidjan on 25 April, the President was further endorsed as the sole candidate of the RHDP coalition.

7. The former ruling FPI party faced deepening internal fissures, widening the divide between those supporting the leadership of incumbent party president Affi N'Guessan and those supporting former President Gbagbo. The fourth congress of FPI, which was to have transpired in December to elect the party president, was postponed, pending a ruling from judicial authorities on the eligibility of former President Gbagbo to contest the leadership of the party, as authorized by the FPI control committee. Following an application submitted by Mr. Affi N'Guessan, on 29 December a court in Abidjan invalidated former President Gbagbo's candidacy for procedural reasons. FPI senior leaders held a series of meetings between 22 and 26 January, seeking to find a solution to the party's internal crisis; however, as at 1 May, the divisions remained unresolved.

8. On 27 February, the FPI President made changes to the FPI general secretariat, which were challenged by some senior party members. On 5 March, the FPI control committee suspended Mr. Affi N'Guessan as president of the party, whom they considered responsible for the malaise within the party, and appointed FPI First Vice-President, Aboudramane Sangaré, as interim party president. On 7 March, Mr. Affi N'Guessan declared that he would challenge the legality of his suspension. On 3 April, the court declared Mr. Affi N'Guessan the sole representative and leader of FPI. On 11 April, Mr. Affi N'Guessan declared his intention to run for the presidency on the FPI ticket. To date, the party congress indicated by Mr. Affi

N'Guessan is yet to be held. However, despite being denied permission by the local authorities, the Sangaré wing of the party held its congress on 30 April in Mama, the hometown of former President Gbagbo, at which the former president was elected president of the party. On 4 May, senior members of FPI affiliated with Mr. Sangaré were arrested and detained in Abidjan.

9. On 6 December, the opposition coalition, Troisième voie, comprising seven parties and led by the President of Liberté et démocratie pour la république, Mamadou Koulibaly, convened a meeting in Abidjan, at which opposition parties and dissidents of the ruling RHDP coalition agreed to select a single opposition candidate for the election. On 18 March, Mr. Koulibaly announced that discussions were ongoing regarding the establishment of a broad coalition ahead of the election, which would include Troisième voie, the FPI faction supporting Mr. Sangaré and the four dissident PDCI candidates.

10. On 12 December, the deposed former President of Burkina Faso, Blaise Compaoré, and his family returned to Côte d'Ivoire, after living for approximately three weeks in Morocco. The Ivorian Government has provided Mr. Compaoré accommodation in Abidjan. Following an announcement by Burkina Faso authorities that its nationals living in Côte d'Ivoire would not be able to vote in the October 2015 presidential election in Burkina Faso, on 13 February, Burkinabè nationals held a peaceful demonstration in Abidjan to assert their constitutional right to vote. There are approximately 4 million Burkinabè nationals residing in Côte d'Ivoire.

Election preparations

11. Following the expansion of the Independent Electoral Commission bureau from six to nine members, detailed in my last report, opposition parties resumed their participation in the Commission. On 4 December, a representative of the FPI-led opposition political coalition Alliance des forces démocratiques de Côte d'Ivoire was elected the fourth vice-president and two additional posts of deputy secretaries were filled by representatives of the opposition Rassemblement des peuples pour la paix and the ruling RDR, respectively. The representative of the opposition Mouvement des forces d'avenir also resumed participation in the work of the Commission, thereby ensuring the full operation of its executive office.

12. In accordance with the electoral timetable set by the Commission, the first round of the presidential election will be conducted on 25 October and the second round, if required, will be held on 22 November. As at 1 May, the electoral commission had established 512 local offices throughout the country, with support from UNOCI, and had established presences in 19 foreign locations to allow registered Ivorian citizens living abroad to vote. Data collection to update the voters' list will start on 18 May, with the aim of finalizing the list by 31 August.

13. On 2 April, the National Assembly adopted 16 amendments to the electoral legal framework, which were proposed by the Independent Electoral Commission. The changes include the right of voters to register and cast their ballot in the constituency of their choice on the condition that they reside, or have economic or social interests, in that constituency. As at 1 March, the national identity card became the key administrative document required for voter registration. However, given that the fees charged for the issuance of the card could be prohibitive for some

citizens, the Government is considering allowing voters to register using their nationality certificate.

14. In December, a United Nations-facilitated platform on elections comprising national stakeholders, including electoral officials and youth and women representatives, was launched in consultation with the Independent Electoral Commission. The platform, established in the context of my Special Representative's good offices mandate, aims to enhance dialogue among political actors, with a view to facilitating an environment conducive to an inclusive, transparent and peaceful electoral period. The United Nations also put in place a three-pronged coordination approach for electoral assistance, focused on strategic and political issues and technical and operational issues, as well as overall coordination and coherence. UNOCI has also begun to provide assistance to national authorities in developing Côte d'Ivoire's electoral security plan.

15. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will also implement an electoral assistance project that will cover enhancing conflict prevention; strengthening the capacity of the local commissions of the Independent Electoral Commission; promoting civic education; promoting women's participation in the electoral process; and training national security forces. The project is estimated to cost approximately $17.3 million. So far, UNDP has confirmed funding of $300,000 and the Peacebuilding Fund has confirmed $1.5 million, while pledges have been forthcoming from Germany and Japan.

National and international justice

16. Some progress was made in prosecuting alleged perpetrators of crimes committed during the post-elections crisis, including legal proceedings against civilian and military members of the former regime at the Abidjan Criminal Court and the Military Court. The Special Investigation and Examination Cell continued its investigation into serious crimes and human rights violations allegedly perpetrated by all parties during the post-elections crisis, though none have been brought to trial. Continued perceptions of "victor's justice" were fuelled by the prosecution of former President Gbagbo's supporters for committing crimes against the State.

17. On 26 December, hearings against former First Lady Simone Gbagbo and 78 other associates of former President Gbagbo accused of crimes against the State and other charges started at the Abidjan Criminal Court (2 of the original 83 accused died before the trial started, while 2 others evaded justice). Earlier, on 11 December, the International Criminal Court (ICC) rejected the challenge of Côte d'Ivoire to the admission of the case against Ms. Gbagbo before the Court and reminded the Government of its obligation to surrender her without delay. The Government requested ICC to suspend its decision, which was rejected on 20 January. On 10 March, the Abidjan Criminal Court rendered its verdict, finding Ms. Gbagbo and 59 of the co-accused guilty of undermining State security and related charges. Ms. Gbagbo, the former Commander of the Republican Guard, General Bruno Dogbo Blé and the former Commander of the National Navy, General Vagba Faussignaux, were each sentenced to 20 years of imprisonment and deprivation of their civic rights for 10 years. Overall, 32 prominent FPI figures are facing imprisonment and deprivation of their civic rights, and are therefore prevented from participating in political activities, including Michel Gbagbo and Mr. Sangaré.

Mr. Affi N'Guessan received a suspended sentence of 18 months. The defence lawyers and prosecution have filed appeals. The Court also awarded the State some $1.9 billion in damages from the convicted persons. Nineteen of the accused were acquitted.

18. On 11 December 2014, ICC confirmed four charges of alleged crimes against humanity, including murder and rape against Charles Blé Goudé, the former Minister of Youth and former Young Patriots leader. ICC decided on 11 March to combine the trials of Mr. Gbagbo and Mr. Blé Goudé, as the charges against both arose from allegations of crimes against humanity committed during the 2010-2011 post-elections crisis. As a result, ICC postponed the start of former President Gbagbo's trial, originally scheduled for 7 July.

19. On 9 March, the National Assembly adopted bills amending the Ivorian criminal code and criminal procedure code. Both laws were aimed at ensuring conformity of domestic criminal law and procedure to Côte d'Ivoire's international criminal and human rights legal obligations. The amendments include the abolition of the death penalty, the full domestication of all offences listed in articles 5 to 8 of the Rome Statute and the removal of the statute of limitations for prosecuting crimes against humanity, genocide and war crimes. On 11 April, President Ouattara declared that the Ivorian judicial system was fully capable of trying perpetrators of crimes committed during the post-elections crisis; consequently, there would be no further transfers to ICC. Additionally, presidential pardons would only be granted to those who seek forgiveness from their victims and the Ivorian people.

20. On 16 March, the Abidjan military tribunal acquitted Major Gnawa Dablé, former Chief of Operations at the Abobo Commando Camp, and Sergeant Brice Eric Tano Kamana, who had been accused of having fired mortars in the Abobo neighbourhood in Abidjan, causing death and injury among the civilian population. The trial failed to address the facts, despite almost four years of investigations. The prosecution has appealed.

National reconciliation and social cohesion

21. On 15 December, the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission formally presented its final report and recommendations to President Ouattara. As at 1 May, the report had not been publicly released. The recommendations, which were drawn from national consultations involving a broad spectrum of the public, focused on the root causes of the crisis, the issue of reparations and the need for political, administrative and institutional reform. During its three-year tenure, the Commission collected 72,483 testimonies, of which 28,064 were from women and 757 from children. The Government began the implementation of some of the recommendations, including the establishment of a reparations programme for victims with an initial fund of approximately $18.5 million. On 24 March, President Ouattara issued an executive order establishing the National Commission for Reconciliation and Compensation of Victims, which is mandated to register all unidentified victims of the Ivorian crises and their entitled beneficiaries and propose compensation measures to repair the harm suffered or the restitution of property to all victims. The Archbishop of Bouaké, previously the Vice-Chair of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission, was appointed President of the Commission.

22. In January, the National Programme for Social Cohesion developed a draft national reconciliation and social cohesion strategy, with support from UNOCI. The

strategy, which should be adopted by national stakeholders before the presidential election, aims to create a collaboration platform for national stakeholders involved in transitional justice and to enhance the coordination of reconciliation initiatives.

23. Intercommunal conflicts continued in the west, triggered by land issues, evictions from protected forests and the exploitation of natural resources. Priority was given to preventing local disagreements and skirmishes from escalating into full-scale conflicts. My Special Representative visited communities throughout the country to promote social cohesion and calm. UNOCI also supported traditional dispute resolution mechanisms and dialogue sessions targeting local authorities and the population, in particular youth groups. Intercommunal dialogue sessions were conducted in Divo/Lakota, Jacqueville, Korhogo, Man, Sinfra and Toulépleu, with an average participation of 200 persons, of whom 20 per cent were women.

24. On 28 January, UNOCI and UNDP initiated a pilot programme to support the Government efforts to build the capacity of local administrators and village councils in data collection and analysis of local conflicts, for monitoring and early warning purposes, with the objective of mitigating threats that could impact social cohesion. The pilot programme focused on community leaders and local authorities in the Abidjan, Guémon, Kabadougou, Marahoué and Sud-Comoé regions.

III. Security situation

25. The security situation in Côte d'Ivoire remained generally stable but fragile. Sporadic attacks and intercommunal clashes persisted in the west, near the border with Liberia, while violent crimes such as armed robbery, banditry and home invasions were reported in Abidjan and other parts of the country. Demonstrations and strike actions were frequent during the period under review, involving civil servants such as teachers and prison guards protesting against conditions of service, as well as students, youths and former combatants with various grievances. Three jailbreaks were recorded between 1 December and 1 May, demonstrating weaknesses in the corrections sector. With the presidential election approaching, the lack of equipment for public order maintenance for Ivorian law enforcement and security forces remained a challenge to their operational capabilities. Incidents involving undisciplined elements of the Force Républicaines de Côte d'Ivoire (FRCI), former combatants and *dozos* (traditional hunters), while still serious, declined.

26. On 4 January, FRCI soldiers arrested six persons in Gobele, near Tabou, in the southwest of the country, who had arrived by boat from Ghana, allegedly with the intention of attacking Tabou. FRCI seized materiel, including grenades, maps and an attack plan.

27. On 10 January, approximately 15 unknown assailants simultaneously attacked FRCI positions in Dahioké and Grabo, resulting in the death of 2 FRCI soldiers and 1 assailant, as well as the displacement of 1,600 civilians.

28. On 16 January, a group of armed assailants raided the village of Irato, near Olodio on the Cavally River, and abducted nine civilians. Irato was also attacked on 11 and 13 January. A team subsequently deployed by UNOCI to Grabo and Irato found the situation to be highly volatile. On 24 February, two Burkinabè were found shot and burned in Irato.

29. Also on 16 January, a cache of weapons and ammunition was found in a private residence near Bouaké. UNOCI supported Ivorian security forces in recovering 20 anti-armoured rockets, 10 anti-personnel rockets, one mortar, assorted ammunition and 11 other weapons.

30. Between 1 December and 1 May, over 20 child abductions were reported in Abidjan, with only 1 child found alive. The bodies of most of the other victims showed signs of mutilation and/or dismemberment. National security forces increased patrolling, and arrested one alleged perpetrator.

IV. Regional issues

31. The situation in the area bordering Liberia remained generally stable, notwithstanding the incidents near the border described in paragraphs 26 to 28 of the present report. As at 1 May, Côte d'Ivoire's borders with Guinea and Liberia remained closed as a precautionary measure against the Ebola virus disease, which had most severely impacted those countries and Sierra Leone. Though no case of Ebola has been reported in Côte d'Ivoire, the Government continued its efforts to strengthen its prevention, preparedness and response capacity, working with partners such as the World Health Organization. As a consequence of the border closures, joint security operations involving the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and UNOCI, as well as the Liberian and Ivorian security agencies, remained suspended, though information-sharing between the two missions continued.

32. On 10 March, the third quadripartite meeting involving the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia, together with UNOCI and UNMIL, was held in Abidjan. The meeting provided an opportunity to strengthen bilateral cooperation and improve border security, as well as to follow up on agreements reached at the June 2012 and April 2013 quadripartite meetings. While both Governments expressed satisfaction with improvements in the security situation, they acknowledged continuing fragility in the border areas. The parties agreed to regular cross-border meetings and sharing of information between the security agencies of both countries and also decided to resume ground and river patrols jointly with UNMIL and UNOCI along the border. It was also agreed to hold the sixth meeting of the Liberia-Côte d'Ivoire joint commission for bilateral cooperation and a second meeting of the joint council of chiefs and elders.

33. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 2153 (2014), UNOCI continued to coordinate with the Group of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire, including with respect to the monitoring of the arms embargo, and also worked closely with Ivorian customs authorities.

V. Reform of security institutions

34. Efforts continued to accelerate the implementation of the National Security Sector Reform Strategy adopted in September 2012, with emphasis on decentralization and national ownership. However, challenges remained in building the operational capacity of national security providers. FRCI continued to face institutional gaps in terms of training, discipline and low public confidence. The police and the gendarmerie, while deployed throughout the country, continued to

face operational shortcomings hampering implementation of law enforcement tasks and other core responsibilities, in addition to lack of equipment, as noted in paragraph 25. Following the November 2014 protests by FRCI elements, the Government made efforts to address outstanding grievances, constructing barracks and paying retroactive salaries. On 14 January, the Government announced that non-commissioned officers could not obtain command positions within FRCI without a military diploma certifying they have undergone service-specific and combat training, a measure intended to improve professionalism within the defence forces.

35. The Government commitment to reorganize the army led to the enactment of legislation on the Organization of National Defence and the Ivorian Armed Forces on 9 March, which would further professionalize FRCI by defining clear criteria for promotion, social benefits and retirement. UNOCI provided technical support to the members of the National Assembly Defence and Security Commission, particularly on democratic oversight. This new defence bill, which replaces a prior law from 1961, would enhance the effectiveness and governance of the defence sector by harmonizing conditions for general mobilization, recognizing the key role of the National Security Council on defence matters, establishing a defence coordination committee, and regulating the conditions for military intervention in law enforcement and rescue operations.

36. In February, the Government, with support from UNOCI, approved a national training plan for the gendarmerie between 2015 and 2019. The Government also continued its efforts to improve gender balance in the gendarmerie, including women in the gendarmerie-training academy. The Peacebuilding Fund supported an infrastructure project that would provide appropriate accommodation for female recruits.

37. In December 2014, security committees comprising representatives of civil society, national security institutions and local government representatives, which are charged with security sector reform implementation at the local level, were established in the Indenié and Mé regions by the National Security Council with support from UNOCI. Efforts were also made to establish a vetting mechanism for the police and gendarmerie. Quick-impact projects supported a police station in Tiebissou, as well as gendarmerie brigades in Abengourou, Divo, Fresco, Guitry, Lakota and Satama-Sokourou.

38. In the framework of the West Africa Coast Initiative project, UNOCI, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and national partners worked towards the operationalization of the newly established transnational crime unit.

VI. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

39. The national Authority for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration announced that, as at 1 May, 50,121 former combatants, including 3,780 women, had been disarmed and demobilized and had received reinsertion support. A revised total number of 64,000 former combatants would complete the process by 30 June 2015. To meet that deadline, there was a significant overall increase in the enrolment of former combatants into the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process. However, the continuing influence of former zone commanders has remained a persisting challenge, including to the disarmament,

demobilization and reintegration process, as noted in the report of the Group of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire of 13 April 2015 (S/2015/252).

40. Between 1 December and 1 May, the Authority conducted 136 disarmament and demobilization operations with the support of UNOCI and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), with the latter destroying 474 weapons. During that period, 4,374 former combatants, including 398 women, handed over 377 weapons, 349,138 rounds of small arms ammunition and 1,814 items of explosive ordnance. Most participants were associates of FRCI or former Forces nouvelles elements.

41. A total of 45,685 former combatants have been reintegrated, while 11,541 were in reinsertion programmes as at 1 May. UNOCI assisted the Government reinsertion efforts, implementing 79 community-based reinsertion projects aimed at the enhancement of community safety and social cohesion, the reinforcement of the weapons collection programme and the payment of transitional safety allowances to 44,542 former combatants.

42. In an effort to reach its goal of enrolling all former combatants in the disarmament and demobilization programme by 30 June 2015, the Authority intensified its sensitization activities. Meanwhile, UNOCI and UNMAS supported the implementation of 10 community violence reduction programmes in the west for 1,660 people, including 520 women. There were reports of an increased presence of former combatants in the west of Côte d'Ivoire, as well as in Bouaké, where participation in disarmament and demobilization operations continued to be low. UNOCI also continued to work with the Authority to develop its approach to post-June 2015 reinsertion activities.

43. The National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons, with the support of UNMAS, conducted seven weapons civilian disarmament collection operations, collecting 272 weapons and 514 small arms ammunition. As at 1 May, Government statistics indicated that a total of 29,071 weapons, including 8,864 grenades, 2,872 items of explosive ordnance and 1,585,507 rounds of ammunition, had been collected. In January 18 tons of destroyed weapons were formally handed over to a smelting factory for transformation into public construction material. UNMAS assisted the Government in the construction or rehabilitation of five storage sites for weapons and ammunition, and the destruction of 51 items of unexploded ordnance. Additionally, UNMAS conducted weapons and ammunition management training for 22 members of the police, gendarmerie and army. The Commission published guidelines on procedures for physical security and stockpile management of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition, as well as standardized training modules, based on international protocols, with support from the United Nations.

VII. Human rights

44. The human rights situation was characterized by reports of arbitrary arrest, illegal detention, ill treatment, racketeering, extortion and sexual- and gender-based violence against women and children. Between 1 December and 1 May, FRCI, some gendarmerie, police and other State agents were reportedly involved in one extrajudicial killing, cases of torture and ill treatment against 35 people and cases of arbitrary arrest and illegal detention of 46 people. The low rate of judicial or disciplinary actions against alleged perpetrators remained a concern.

45. On 24 March, Mohammed Ayat, the new Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Côte d'Ivoire, submitted a report to the Human Rights Council in which he emphasized that, notwithstanding progress made by the Ivorian Government with respect to the protection of human rights, more was required to ensure the prosecution of all persons responsible for violations of human rights regardless of their political affiliation. Also in March, compliance by Côte d'Ivoire with its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights was reviewed by the Human Rights Committee, which published its concluding observations on 31 March. The Committee made recommendations regarding the mandate and independence of the National Human Rights Commission, and recommended that the report of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission be made public.

46. Detainees in prolonged pretrial detention continued to face difficult circumstances, prompting 150 persons detained at the central civilian prison of Abidjan in connection with the post-elections crisis to start a hunger strike on 1 December, as indicated in my last report. The hunger strike ended on 25 December, following an intervention by my Special Representative.

47. On 8 April, with UNOCI support, the National Human Rights Commission of Côte d'Ivoire launched a national observatory for monitoring human rights during the electoral process. UNOCI provided assistance to the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Public Liberties in following up on recommendations made in the context of the universal periodic review, including by convening a workshop in Abidjan on 17 December.

Child protection

48. Between 1 December and 1 May, 64 rape cases against girls aged 2 to 16 years were documented, 8 of which were allegedly perpetrated by State agents. Reports were received during the same period of 28 girls who were victims of female genital mutilation and two attempted forced marriages. The number of reported cases of all types of violations decreased from the previous reporting period.

49. On 12 February, UNOCI intervened to secure the removal of a checkpoint controlled by FRCI elements at the entrance of the primary school in the Godjiboué village, near San Pedro, affecting children's right to education.

Sexual violence

50. Between 1 December and 1 May, the United Nations verified 80 rapes and other sexual abuses, including 9 gang rapes and 1 attempted gang rape, including 67 perpetrated against children, fewer reported cases than the prior reporting period. The main challenge in the fight against sexual violence remained the low rate of adequate prosecution of alleged perpetrators by the national judicial system. Out of the 80 cases, 31 alleged perpetrators were arrested and detained, but only 10 were tried and sentenced for "indecent assault" by domestic courts, with prison sentences ranging from 3 months to 10 years. Others were released for lack of evidence, withdrawal of complaints by victims or non-attendance at court hearings by victims fearing retaliation. Most victims continued to resort to traditional mechanisms to settle cases.

51. In December, UNOCI conducted activities to strengthen the capacity of civil society actors and personnel at the six legal aid clinics on accountability on sexual violence. With a view to supporting the implementation of the action plan developed by the committee of national experts on conflict-related sexual violence, UNOCI assisted the committee with the sensitization of FRCI at the Open Day events on human rights and international humanitarian law, held in Abidjan from 4 to 6 December, at which the Prime Minister and the FRCI Chief of Staff reiterated their commitment to fight impunity for conflict-related sexual violence.

Gender

52. On 2 March, while inaugurating the Conseil national de la femme, President Ouattara committed to consolidating the rights of women and enhancing their participation in building democracy, in line with efforts by the African Union and in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women. The President also launched a compendium of women with the professional credentials to be members of decision-making bodies and to contribute to Côte d'Ivoire's socioeconomic development of Côte d'Ivoire.

53. UNOCI and non-governmental organizations in the Bouaké area organized training and awareness-raising activities for more than 1,700 people in the regions of Gbeke and Hambol to promote the participation of women and youth in elections.

HIV/AIDS

54. Between 1 December and 1 May, UNOCI sensitized 7,317 persons on HIV/AIDS prevention and provided voluntary counselling and testing for 1,158, including 656 former combatants. A further 1,935 individuals, including returnees and community members, were sensitized on HIV/AIDS and sexual violence. On 18 December, the President chaired the fifth session of the National Council for the Fight against HIV/AIDS in Abidjan, at which he indicated that HIV/AIDS prevalence in Côte d'Ivoire had decreased from 3.7 per cent in 2012 to 2.7 per cent in 2014.

VIII. Media

55. Some media outlets continued to disseminate incendiary information and hate speech. UNOCI intensified efforts to strengthen professionalism, media ethics and responsible journalism with a view to promoting an environment conducive to peaceful elections. On 26 February, UNOCI launched, in cooperation with the Minister for Higher Education, a sensitization campaign at University Felix Houphouët-Boigny in Abidjan, which was subsequently extended to six other universities and two high schools. ONUCI-FM radio programmes continued to promote political dialogue and national reconciliation.

IX. Economic situation

56. The economy of Côte d'Ivoire continued its upward trend, with a growth rate of 9.1 per cent in 2014, up from 8.1 per cent in 2013. Growth was driven by the manufacturing and services sectors, as well as increases in national consumption

and stock prices. External accounts also improved, as well as the trade balance, by more than 2.4 per cent. Foreign direct investment rose, reaching $730 million in 2014. International confidence was also demonstrated by the achievement of the threshold of the United States foreign aid agency, the Millennium Challenge Corporation. The level of external debt also continued to improve, remaining below the threshold of the convergence ratio for Union économique et monétaire ouest-africaine, as well as the debt sustainability scenario of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. Job creation was driven by the agricultural and services sectors, which created a total of some 110,000 jobs in 2014.

57. Côte d'Ivoire registered strong performance on its programme delivery for IMF, which conducted a review from 18 March to 2 April of the country's economic and financial programme supported by an arrangement under the extended credit facility. In February, Côte d'Ivoire issued a $1 billion Eurobonds at a yield of 6.625 per cent, which was four times oversubscribed. The country is sub-Saharan Africa's second-largest issuer of bonds, after South Africa, with total stock amounting to $4.25 billion.

58. An International Conference on the Emergence of Africa took place in Abidjan between 18 and 20 March under the chairmanship of President Ouattara, organized jointly with UNDP and in close partnership with the African Development Bank and the World Bank, which aimed to promote sharing of experiences. The Declaration of Abidjan adopted on 20 March covered priority areas, and plans are in place to establish a follow-up mechanism and a high-level committee.

X. Humanitarian situation

59. As at 31 March, 38,121 Ivorian refugees had been registered by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Liberia, while 19,433 remained in other countries in West Africa. Throughout the period under review, the facilitated voluntary repatriation of Ivorian refugees in Guinea and Liberia was suspended at the request of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire as a preventive measure in the context of the Ebola outbreak. On 12 March, the tripartite commission comprising the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia and UNHCR recommended resuming voluntary repatriation activities.

60. An estimated 300,000 civilians remained displaced within Cote d'Ivoire as at 1 May. The armed attacks described in paragraphs 26 to 28 triggered the displacement of nearly 3,000 people, mostly women and children, while land disputes in Bas Sassandra, Cavally and Montagnes contributed to the displacement of some 150 people. Humanitarian actors provided those displaced with water, health care, sanitation, food and non-food items to supplement the assistance provided by the national authorities.

61. A Government-led 2014/15 humanitarian strategy and action plan were finalized, which addresses residual humanitarian needs in the country. Of the $37.5 million required to cover needs in 2014, only $19.7 million was funded. A further $53.4 million is required to carry out humanitarian and early recovery programmes in 2015.

62. From 23 to 25 February, UNHCR and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) held a ministerial-level regional conference on

statelessness in Abidjan, which was attended by President Ouattara and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. In a final statement signed by all 15 ECOWAS member States, a commitment was made to address the issue in the region within 10 years. An estimated 750,000 stateless people live in Côte d'Ivoire.

XI. Deployment of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

Military component

63. As at 1 May, the strength of the UNOCI military component stood at 5,644 personnel, comprising 5,375 troops (including 5 infantry battalions, a quick reaction unit and enablers), 92 staff officers and 177 military observers, out of an authorized strength of 7,137 personnel. Women represent 1.5 per cent of the force. More than half of the UNOCI force is deployed in the west.

64. Pursuant to resolution 2162 (2014), reducing the authorized strength to 5,437 military personnel by 30 June 2015, UNOCI had withdrawn a total of 1,987 troops by 1 May, including infantry (1,280), engineering units (273), transport (300), a light utility aviation unit (104) and signals (30). An additional 256 troops are scheduled to repatriate in June. The force was also augmented with 543 new personnel, including 195 required to transform the force reserve into the quick response force detailed in paragraph 65, 85 to generate a medium utility aviation unit and a 263-strong military task force for the east. Meanwhile, the UNOCI force continued to reconfigure, with a view to enhancing mobility and concentrating on high-risk areas, while reducing its presence in the east and moving to a pre-emptive posture in order to implement its protection of civilians mandate within its areas of deployment and capabilities. Since my last report, the force conducted 165 training operations focused on active deterrence, protection of military effect and enhanced rapid response. No further reduction of the UNOCI military component is recommended until after the conclusion of the electoral period.

Regional quick reaction force

65. The 650-strong quick reaction force authorized by the Security Council in its resolution 2162 (2014) is fully operational to implement the mandate of UNOCI, while also able to temporarily reinforce UNMIL in the event of a serious deterioration of the security situation in Liberia. As at 24 April, the concept and mechanisms of the quick reaction force had been successfully validated and tested. Operational readiness will continue to be developed with further training, cooperation and preparation.

French forces

66. The 450-strong French forces, or Licorne, announced the end of its 12-year operation in Côte d'Ivoire on 21 January 2015. At the same time, the Forces françaises en Côte d'Ivoire, comprising around 580 troops, were established, with the primary mandate of implementing bilateral military cooperation in the framework of the defence partnership agreement that was signed between Côte d'Ivoire and France in 2012. By its resolution 2162 (2014), the Security Council had extended until 30 June 2015 authorization for the French forces to provide support to UNOCI, within the limits of the force's deployment and capabilities. Such support to UNOCI continues to be necessary, particularly during the electoral

period, and should therefore be formalized in a new memorandum of understanding. Collaboration already exists with respect to assisting FRCI in elaborating its electoral security plans, and tripartite meetings bringing together FRCI, UNOCI and the French forces continued on a bimonthly basis.

Police component

67. As at 1 May, the strength of the UNOCI police component stood at 1,494 personnel, out of an authorized strength of 1,500, including 495 individual police officers and 6 formed police units deployed in Abidjan (2), Bouaké, Daloa, Guiglo and Korhogo. Women represent 10 per cent of the police component.

68. Adjustments were made to the areas of responsibility of the UNOCI formed police units to enhance their operational capacity and mobility. These units will continue to support the national security forces and help mitigate security vacuums in areas vacated by the UNOCI force, focusing on public order management, crowd control and operational support. United Nations police also support and advise national law enforcement and security forces, including through the conduct of joint patrols, mentoring, training and co-location activities at police stations and gendarmerie brigades countrywide, and will focus in particular on supporting the development and implementation of the national electoral security plan. No further reduction of the UNOCI police component is recommended until after the conclusion of the electoral period.

Conduct and discipline

69. UNOCI continued to work towards full compliance with my zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and other misconduct. No allegations of sexual misconduct against any UNOCI uniformed or civilian staff member were recorded during the period under review.

Protection of civilians

70. In line with the implementation of the United Nations protection of civilians strategy, an assessment of civilian threats and vulnerabilities was conducted to identify hotspots, which will inform the protection of civilians capability of all United Nations entities working in Côte d'Ivoire during the electoral period. During the period under review, 50 United Nations personnel were trained on protection of civilians. UNOCI also provided training on protection of civilians to 64 members of the national security and defence forces.

XII. Safety and security of United Nations personnel

71. Criminality and traffic accidents presented the greatest risks to the safety and security of United Nations personnel. Between 1 December and 1 May, one United Nations staff member was murdered, one was the victim of armed robbery and two were victims of vehicular break-ins. Nine UNOCI military personnel died in separate car accidents on 27 January and 3 February. On 8 March, the body of a UNOCI national staff member who had been shot dead was discovered in Bouaké; the national police, with support from UNOCI, are investigating. In addition, one military member died from natural causes on 2 March, as did two police personnel, on 8 March and 20 April, respectively.

XIII. Financial implications

72. My proposed budget for the maintenance of UNOCI for the period from 1 July 2015 to June 2016 in the amount of $418.2 million has been submitted to the General Assembly for its consideration and approval during the second part of its resumed sixty-ninth session. Should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of UNOCI beyond 30 June 2015, the cost of maintaining UNOCI would be limited to the amounts approved by the General Assembly for the 2015/2016 financial period.

73. As at 22 April 2015, unpaid assessed contributions to the Special Account for UNOCI amounted to $126.7 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations as at that date amounted to $2,160.3 million.

74. Reimbursement to contributing Governments for troop and formed police costs, and contingent-owned equipment costs, has been made for the period up to January 2015 and December 2014, respectively, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

XIV. Observations

75. In October 2015, the people of Côte d'Ivoire will go to the polls to choose their next president. The success of that election and the peaceful inauguration of the next democratically elected head of State will be a critical milestone in consolidating the country's achievements, including with respect to national reconciliation and economic development, since the violent post-elections crisis of 2010-2011. It is essential that all political stakeholders and their constituents continue to engage in the democratic process in a constructive manner to ensure that the October election is free, fair, transparent and peaceful, as well as inclusive.

76. I am therefore encouraged by the continued determination of the Government, under the leadership of President Ouattara, to advance the essential political dialogue and national reconciliation processes, while also making conciliatory gestures towards the political opposition. Such efforts should continue and intensify as the election date approaches and the political stakes become higher. Resolving these issues before the election, a task the Government has set for itself, is critical. However, consolidating the hard-won gains and ensuring that the whole of society shares in the benefits requires that all political actors redouble their efforts aimed at overcoming remaining political and social cleavages, while also messaging the same to their respective constituencies.

77. In the months ahead, all political stakeholders must seize the opportunity to advance a constructive and meaningful dialogue process that will facilitate a peaceful electoral process that should be open to all. A strong democracy requires a vibrant and engaged opposition whose rights are respected, including the right of assembly. I therefore commend the decision of the Government to broaden the base of participation in the forthcoming election, including the decision to provide funding for political parties. I also welcome progress made towards the completion of the legal framework for elections, including the amendment of the electoral code. However, more remains to be done, including with respect to ensuring equitable access to State media for all political actors, and I urge the Government to do its utmost to give the opposition greater access. At the same time, I remain concerned

by the continued use of inflammatory messages in the media, and appeal to all political actors to refrain from using incendiary speech that undermines national reconciliation and social cohesion.

78. The United Nations will support the Ivorian authorities and institutions in their preparations for the electoral process, including through the continued good offices of my Special Representative. I also ask that the Security Council approve the expansion of the UNOCI electoral assistance mandate to include additional tasks, within existing resources, as detailed in my report of 12 December 2014 (S/2014/892). Meanwhile, the United Nations family will continue to support Ivorian stakeholders in creating an environment conducive to a peaceful electoral process, including by helping to facilitate dialogue and working with the national security agencies put in place the necessary security conditions.

79. The armed attacks on communities in the west are deeply troubling, highlighting continuing challenges linked to land rights, intercommunal conflicts and, in some cases, hostility to FRCI. Such attacks have devastating consequences for civilians. It is therefore imperative that national authorities lead in mitigating the threat of such attacks, including with a view to reducing the potential for localized instability during the electoral period.

80. Ensuring the irreversibility of progress in key areas, including national reconciliation, security sector reform, disarmament, decentralization of the administration and the fight against corruption, which are often interconnected, would help to build the confidence of the population in the future of the State and its institutions. That, in turn, would contribute to a political climate conducive to the holding of credible, transparent and peaceful elections, and continued peace thereafter.

81. Côte d'Ivoire has made efforts to bring to justice some of the alleged perpetrators of crimes committed against the State during the post-elections crisis. However, there is still deep concern about perceived "victor's justice", given that the focus has so far been limited to members and associates of the former regime, and there has not yet been any accountability for alleged violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. Truly reconciling the population will require that more efforts be made to demonstrate the fundamental principle of equality before the law. It is therefore critical to take forward investigations and prosecutions against all of those alleged to have committed human rights violations, irrespective of status or political affiliation.

82. I remain deeply troubled by delays in the investigation of major cases, such as the killing in June 2012 of seven United Nations peacekeepers and the attack on the Nahibly camp for internally displaced persons in July 2012. I urge the Government to remain committed to ensuring equitable and impartial justice, and to ensure that perpetrators of serious crimes are brought to justice.

83. I commend the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission for making a series of recommendations that could help take the national reconciliation process forward, including reparations for victims. It is important that effective mechanisms and programmes, with sufficient resources, are established in order to implement those recommendations. I therefore welcome President Ouattara's commitment in that regard, as well as the allocation of an initial tranche of funds to cover reparations to victims. At the same time, I urge the Government to make the report

of the Commission public, as a free and open debate about the country's past could help to shape a better future for all Ivoirians. It is essential that the people and Government of Côte d'Ivoire redouble their efforts to advance reconciliation throughout the country, and at all levels of society. In that regard, I welcome efforts to take forward intercommunal dialogue, which is an important tool for advancing social cohesion and reconciliation between communities.

84. There has been some welcome improvement in the human rights situation, including the inauguration of the first national mechanism aimed at enhancing gender balance in all institutions. However, numerous challenges remain ahead of the October election, and I remain concerned about the reports of exactions committed by security forces, as well as sexual- and gender-based violence, harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation and the kidnapping, mutilation and murder of children. It is essential that the Government and its partners take all the necessary steps to strengthen the national justice system to increase the prosecution of alleged perpetrators of human rights violations, while also adopting measures aimed at protecting the rights of victims. I also implore the Government to ensure respect for the right to due process of all persons in detention.

85. While the justice and corrections system continue to develop, these sectors still need strong assistance aimed at building their capacity. I urge partners to provide such assistance, given that these tasks no longer fall within the mandate of UNOCI. Sustaining peace, security and stability will require that national authorities receive strategic and focused operational support, which should complement ongoing efforts to develop the national police and gendarmerie, as part of a comprehensive approach to the criminal justice chain.

86. The efforts of the Government to restructure and professionalize its defence and security sector are commendable. However, despite progress in the implementation of the national security sector reform programme, challenges remain in building the operational capacity of security providers. Urgent steps must be taken to address the operational shortcomings of the police and gendarmerie, particularly ahead of the October election, including their lack of adequate equipment. The legitimacy and accountability of security institutions remain crucial for the confidence of the population in the security sector.

87. I welcome the ambitious efforts to conclude the disarmament and demobilization of the full caseload of former combatants by June 2015. At the same time, it is important that long-term sustainable solutions are identified and implemented to address the residual caseload of former combatants requiring reinsertion. UNOCI will respond positively to the Ivorian authorities' request to provide continued support for the reinsertion of former combatants after June. At the same time, coordination and the involvement of all relevant partners, including the private sector, should be prioritized by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire.

88. While the closure of land borders and the suspension of cross-border activities, including joint security operations and refugee returns, were logical measures to prevent the spread of Ebola into Côte d'Ivoire, such measures limited prospects for effective cross-border protocols and also posed the risk of creating a security vacuum in the border areas. I therefore welcome the resumption of the quadripartite and tripartite frameworks, as well as plans to restart the voluntary repatriation of Ivorian refugees. It is also important that the countries of the region assume greater ownership of their bilateral and regional cooperation. In that regard, I welcome the

important steps being taken by ECOWAS member States to address statelessness, and the collective efforts to galvanize efforts to sustainably address Ebola.

89. Progress has been made on many fronts in Côte d'Ivoire, giving rise to optimism. However, many challenges remain. It is absolutely essential to take every precaution to prevent any reversal of the hard-won gains. I therefore recommend that the Security Council extend the mandate of UNOCI for a period of one year, until 30 June 2016, with an authorized strength of 5,437 military and 1,500 police personnel, while also expanding the electoral assistance mandate of UNOCI.

90. I wish to express my appreciation for my Special Representative for Côte d'Ivoire, Aïchatou Mindaoudou, for her excellent leadership. I also extend my gratitude to all United Nations civilian and uniformed personnel, troop- and police-contributing countries, the African Union, ECOWAS, the Mano River Union and other regional organizations, multilateral and bilateral partners, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, non-governmental organizations and all other partners for their invaluable support to sustaining peace in Côte d'Ivoire.

Annex I

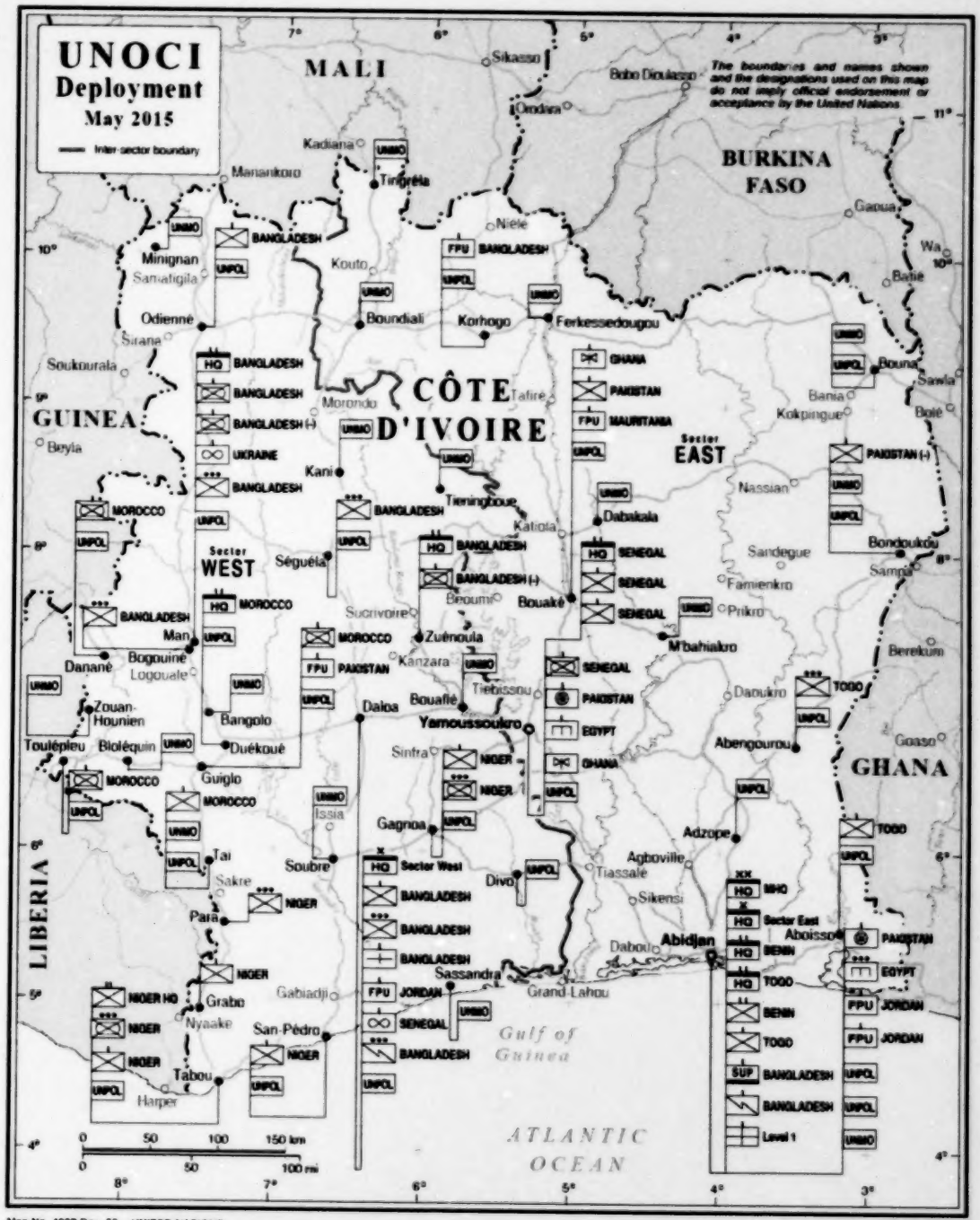
United Nations Mission in Cote d'Ivoire: military and police strength

(As at 1 May 2015)

	Military component				*Police component*	
Country	*Military observers*	*Staff officers*	*Troops*	*Total*	*Formed police units*	*Police officers*
Bangladesh	13	9	1 434	1 456	180	–
Benin	9	7	370	386	–	54
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	3	–	–	3	–	–
Brazil	3	3	–	6	–	–
Burkina Faso	–	–	–	–	–	54
Burundi	–	–	–	–	–	65
Cameroon	–	–	–	–	–	14
Central African Republic	–	–	–	–	–	6
Chad	4	–	–	4	–	10
China	6	–	–	6	–	–
Djibouti	–	–	–	–	–	16
Democratic Republic of the Congo	–	–	–	–	–	14
Ecuador	2	–	–	2	–	–
Egypt	–	1	175	176	–	25
El Salvador	3	–	–	3	–	–
Ethiopia	2	–	–	2	–	–
France	–	5	–	5	–	7
Gambia	3	–	–	3	–	–
Ghana	6	7	150	163	–	5
Guatemala	5	–	–	5	–	–
Guinea	1	–	–	1	–	–
India	9	–	–	9	–	–
Ireland	2	–	–	2	–	–
Jordan	8	12	–	20	490	11
Kazakhstan	2	–	–	2	–	–
Madagascar	–	–	–	–	–	3
Malawi	3	2	–	5	–	–
Mauritania	–	–	–	–	139	–
Morocco	–	3	715	718	–	–
Namibia	2	–	–	2	–	–
Nepal	3	1	–	4	–	–
Niger	5	4	862	871	–	43
Nigeria	3	–	–	3	–	4

Country	Military component				Police component	
	Military observers	Staff officers	Troops	Total	Formed police units	Police officers
Pakistan	12	15	452	479	190	–
Paraguay	1	2	–	3	–	–
Peru	2	–	–	2	–	–
Poland	1	–	–	1	–	–
Republic of Korea	2	–	–	2	–	–
Republic of Moldova	2	–	–	2	–	–
Romania	6	–	–	6	–	–
Russian Federation	6	–	–	6	–	–
Rwanda	–	–	–	–	–	34
Senegal	7	3	721	731	–	33
Serbia	6	–	–	6	–	–
Spain	–	1	–	1	–	–
Switzerland	–	–	–	–	–	1
Togo	7	6	465	478	–	5
Tunisia	7	3	–	10	–	53
Turkey	–	–	–	–	–	8
Uganda	5	2	–	7	–	–
Ukraine	–	3	31	34	–	12
United Republic of Tanzania	2	2	–	4	–	–
Uruguay	1	–	–	1	–	–
Vanuatu	–	–	–	–	–	3
Yemen	9	1	–	10	–	15
Zambia	1	–	–	1	–	–
Zimbabwe	3	–	–	3	–	–
Total	**177**	**92**	**5 375**	**5 644**	**999**	**495**

Annex II



Map No. 4220 Rev. 53 UNITED NATIONS
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Cartographic Section

United Nations S/2015/321

Security Council

Distr.: General
27 March 2015

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the credentials of the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the Security Council

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received credentials signed on 27 March 2015 by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland stating that Mr. Matthew Rycroft has been appointed representative of the United Kingdom on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, these credentials are in order.

15-07279 (E) 080515

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United Nations S/2015/322

Security Council

Distr.: General
8 May 2015

Original: English

Letter dated 8 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to submit to you herewith a press release by the Government of the Republic of Burundi concerning the current security and political situation in Burundi (see annex).

I kindly request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Albert **Shingiro**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

15-07328 (E) 110515 110515

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Annex to the letter dated 8 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: French]

Government press release of 8 May 2015

1. Following the announcement by the National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for the Defence of Democracy party of its candidate in the forthcoming presidential election, certain opposition political parties and so-called civil society activists have begun demonstrations which, at the outset, were purportedly peaceful but which have turned into a violent insurrection accompanied by a series of unprecedented atrocities.

2. The residents of certain neighbourhoods in the capital representing insurgent strongholds have been held hostage and deprived of their most basic rights, namely, to go about their daily business and seek treatment. More seriously, children have been prevented from attending school, thereby being deprived of their right to education. When, throughout the country, other children were quietly sitting the examination for admission to secondary education, children in districts occupied by demonstrators were expelled from examination centres and their examination scripts torn up.

3. Moreover, these insurrectionist activities have taken on disquieting, xenophobic overtones, with anyone who is not a demonstrator or a supporter of their cause being treated as an enemy to be struck down, as happened to a Congolese citizen killed on the spot, and to a Franco-Burundian citizen who was beaten and tortured in Mutakura, an urban district in Cibitoke, even though he showed the demonstrators his French passport.

4. The most dramatic incident occurred on Thursday, 7 May 2015, when an ordinary Burundian citizen working for a telecommunications company was burned alive in the urban district of Nyakabiga simply because he was unknown to the demonstrators and treated ipso facto as a member of the Imbonerakure.

5. This drift into selective criminality should induce the organizers of the insurrection to reflect on the consequences of acts that for Burundians stir memories of what they lived through in 1994, in virtually the same districts, with the same protagonists, and, oddly enough, the same methods, the only difference being that now they have no hesitation in attacking the forces of law and order when they try to stop their barbarous acts.

6. The Government of Burundi vigorously condemns this behaviour unworthy of a political leader and still more of a responsible actor in civil society. The Government offers its condolences to the families of all the victims of these barbarous acts and calls on the organizers to put an end to them forthwith. Police and judicial officers are requested to make every effort to identify those responsible and bring them to justice.

7. The Government calls on the international community to condemn this dangerous development for a country emerging from crisis and embarked on reconstruction and reconciliation. The Government invites accredited diplomats in

Bujumbura, witnesses of the criminal acts perpetrated by these so-called defenders of public freedoms, to report objectively thereon to their respective Governments and to intercede with the organizers of the demonstrations to remind them of their responsibilities.

8. The Government invites the people of Burundi in general and the residents of the capital in particular to reject and condemn the return to the atrocities of earlier years. The Government calls on the people of remain calm and united and to prepare peacefully for the forthcoming elections.

Bujumbura, 8 May 2015

Secretary-General and Spokesperson for the Government
Philippe Nzobonariba

United Nations S/2015/323

Security Council

Distr.: General
8 May 2015
English
Original: French

Letter dated 8 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform the Security Council that the Democratic Republic of the Congo has fully complied with the recommendations contained in resolution 2211 (2015) of 26 March 2015, in which the Council encourages my Government to take effective steps to enter into a regular strategic dialogue with the United Nations, building on the joint assessment process initiated in 2010 to jointly develop a road map and exit strategy for the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO).

As announced by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Mr. Raymond Tshibanda N'tungamulongo, in his address to the Security Council on 19 March 2015, a strategic dialogue was initiated with the United Nations in Kinshasa, immediately following the adoption of the aforementioned resolution, with a view to discussing the exit strategy of MONUSCO as a whole, including sticking points in the relations between the United Nations and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as mentioned in the Minister's statement to the Council.

Despite the efforts made, including efforts to re-establish dialogue with MONUSCO, my Government notes with regret that, contrary to expectations, no progress has been made by the United Nations on reaching consensus so that concrete proposals can be made to the Security Council.

MONUSCO, which is holding fast to its position, continues to believe and to claim that the mere resumption of cooperation between the Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo (FARDC) and MONUSCO in rooting out the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR) is sufficient, while the Security Council and the host country are calling for an exit strategy for MONUSCO.

Returning to the issue of cooperation, the Democratic Republic of the Congo has always enjoyed excellent cooperation with the United Nations and will continue to do so. However, my Government would like to recall that it was following the refusal of MONUSCO to work with the two generals appointed to command the operations against FDLR and to assist FARDC in those operations that the Government, noting that decision, and wishing to fulfil its obligations with regard to

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neutralizing the negative forces, was obliged to initiate the current operations against FDLR without the assistance of MONUSCO.

It should be noted that these operations continue to have encouraging results. In South Kivu, the Uvira, Shabunda and Mwenga roads have been entirely cleared of FDLR sanctuaries, headquarters and command structures. The efforts of FARDC will now focus mainly on the Kalehe, Kabare and Walungu roads in this province, as well as the roads of North Kivu province that have not yet been cleared of FDLR.

Furthermore, my Government regrets and condemns the killing of two members of the MONUSCO forces who were ambushed by the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) on Tuesday, 5 May 2015, on the Mavivi-Mayimoya route at Kikiki village, 11 km south of Eringeti, and would like to take this opportunity to reiterate its request for a constructive dialogue between the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and MONUSCO, a dialogue which will contribute to harmonizing the views of the two sides on issues that have not yet been clarified.

My Government requests the Security Council not to take action on questions relating to the Democratic Republic of the Congo without first having heard the Government's position.

My Government would be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ignace **Gata Mavita**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2015/324

Security Council

Distr.: General
8 May 2015

Original: English

Letter dated 8 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward to you a concept note for the Security Council ministerial briefing on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts (foreign terrorist fighters), which will be held on 29 May 2015 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Raimonda **Murmokaitė**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

15-07353 (E) 130515

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Annex to the letter dated 8 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Concept note for the Security Council ministerial briefing on foreign terrorist fighters

In September 2014, the Security Council, at a summit at the level of Heads of Government chaired by the President of the United States of America, Barack Obama, adopted resolution 2178 (2014) to respond to the acute and emerging threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters. In the months since, much has been accomplished by Member States, the United Nations and other international, regional and subregional organizations to counter the threat. Recent studies and assessments, however, indicate that the flow of foreign terrorist fighters into conflict zones is continuing and that more needs to be done to tackle the phenomenon.

Lithuania will host a briefing attended by interior ministers (or their equivalents) to assess how far the international community has come since September 2014 in countering the flow of foreign terrorist fighters into conflict zones. The goal of the session will be to identify specific priority action for the full implementation of resolution 2178 (2014). It will be the first time that the Security Council has met in the format of interior ministers (or their equivalents). The unique format recognizes the critical role that interior ministries (and related government offices) must play in responding to this complex threat to international peace and security.

Continuing threat of foreign terrorist fighters

As the Security Council noted in 2014, the problem of terrorists travelling to foreign conflicts is not new, but the threat has become grave and is continuing, with an unprecedented flow of fighters and facilitation networks fuelling multiple conflicts worldwide, such as in Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Horn of Africa, Afghanistan, Yemen and Libya. The latest reports indicate that there are now more than 25,000 known foreign terrorist fighters from in excess of 100 countries who have travelled to join or fight for terrorist entities associated with Al-Qaida, including the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant.

Foreign terrorist fighters not only exacerbate existing conflicts, as observed in many conflict zones today, but also can return home possessing new skills and connections, increasing the threat of home-grown terrorist attacks, which the international community has recently witnessed. In addition, not only are foreign terrorist fighters a threat today, but terrorist networks forged in current conflicts could pose a threat for decades to come.

Resolution 2178 (2014), a landmark response to the threat, provided a comprehensive framework for the international community's response. Since its adoption, Member States have rapidly responded, including by adopting appropriate laws and regulations to deal with foreign terrorist fighters within their territories and taking the measures necessary to prevent such fighters from transiting across borders and to address the violent extremism fuelling the phenomenon. International and regional organizations have also adopted new frameworks and protocols to guide their members on how to implement the resolution and enhance subregional,

regional and international coordination and cooperation. Nevertheless, more must be done to mobilize the additional resources and technical expertise needed to build the appropriate infrastructure, processes and mechanisms and employ them to effectively prevent and counter the movement of foreign terrorist fighters, especially among the most affected origin, transit, neighbouring and destination States.

Priority action to implement resolution 2178 (2014)

The ministerial briefing would highlight the principal challenges faced by Member States in implementing the core provisions of resolution 2178 (2014): adopting new national laws to criminalize the travel, financing, recruitment and facilitation of foreign terrorist fighters; countering the flow of fighters through improved border security, information collection and sharing; countering recruitment and facilitation; and increasing and enhancing international cooperation through bilateral and multilateral mechanisms.

The interior ministers (or their equivalents) would then focus on tangible steps that Member States and the international community should take as a matter of priority to implement resolution 2178 (2014) fully. Such steps may include improving legal frameworks for criminalization of offences, strengthening border management, making better use of law enforcement tools, sharing foreign terrorist fighter travel information and marshalling resources and expertise for the most affected States to further build their capacity and provide technical assistance. With a focus on implementation and execution, the Security Council should provide more specific direction to the international community on how to comply with the obligations found in the resolution and on what enforcement and preventive action should be taken to have a greater impact, while at the same time respecting human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law.

Furthermore, the Security Council should encourage even closer cooperation between its principal counter-terrorism expert bodies — the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1526 (2004) — and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force on the issue. Those bodies should harmonize efforts to strategically deliver needs-based capacity-building assistance to the most affected States as expeditiously as possible. To that end, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the Monitoring Team should share their analyses with the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to jointly develop a capacity-building assistance plan to counter foreign terrorist fighters, to be implemented in the near future, and to identify additional donors and implementers who may be able to assist Member States with complementary or supplementary assistance to build the needed capabilities and expertise.

Thematic session

To frame the discussion, the Secretary-General will provide a briefing on the scope of the foreign terrorist fighter problem, its effect on current conflicts and the Organization's efforts to tackle it. The Chairs of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities and the Security Council Committee

established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism will then provide a briefing on their efforts in that regard, including the assessments of the Monitoring Team and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate in relation to the foreign terrorist fighter threat and what more needs to be done. The Secretary-General of the International Criminal Police Organization will also provide a briefing on that body's efforts to counter the flow of foreign terrorist fighters, including in terms of assistance and services provided to States.

The interior ministers (or equivalents) would then be invited to speak. They may wish to refer to:

(a) Their views on priority action that must be taken in the short term to fully implement resolution 2178 (2014) and counter the foreign terrorist fighter threat;

(b) Experience in creating new laws or adapting existing laws to criminalize foreign terrorist fighter travel, recruitment and facilitation and how they employ them for law enforcement activities;

(c) Challenges that they face in securing their borders against foreign terrorist fighters and prosecuting individuals who seek to join terrorist organizations, as well as lessons learned and solutions found;

(d) Obstacles faced and/or solutions discovered to collect and share needed foreign terrorist fighter and traveller data within and across borders to improve monitoring and interdiction efforts;

(e) Areas in which they may have special capacity and expertise to assist others to improve criminalization, border security and information collection, analysis or sharing;

(f) Views on the ability of the United Nations system and regional and subregional organizations to bolster State capacity to counter the movement of foreign terrorist fighters.

The adoption of a presidential statement that would encourage States to take action to implement resolution 2178 (2014) is foreseen.

United Nations A/69/896–S/2015/325

General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Sixty-ninth session
Agenda items 33 and 38

Security Council
Seventieth year

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Letter dated 8 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, dated 4 May 2015, in connection with the so-called "elections" to the "parliament" of the puppet separatist regime, held in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 3 May 2015 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 33 and 38, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yashar Aliyev
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

15-07427 (E) 130515

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Annex to the letter dated 8 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

4 May 2015

According to press reports, on 3 May 2015, Armenia conducted the so-called "elections" to the "parliament" of the puppet separatist regime it has established in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

These "elections" constitute a clear violation of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the norms and principles of international law and, therefore, have no legal effect whatsoever. The international community has overwhelmingly united with the Republic of Azerbaijan in rejecting this mock "election" exercise and not recognizing as legitimate the situation created through the use of force against the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, accompanied by the notorious practice of ethnic cleansing and other flagrant violations of the peremptory norms of international law, as reflected in the statements by the European Union, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, by the Russian Federation, France and the United States of America, both individually as well as in their capacities as co-chairs of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Minsk Group and by many other countries.

This provocative step is yet another clear manifestation that Armenia is not genuinely interested in seeking a political settlement of the armed conflict and, instead, pursues the path of escalation, undertaking consistent measures to consolidate the results of its occupation policy and its annexationist aspirations through conducting large-scale military exercises in the occupied territories, illegally changing the demographic, cultural and physical character of the occupied territories and engaging in economic and other activities, including the transfer of Armenian populations into these territories with the ultimate goal of imposing a fait accompli situation.

The Republic of Azerbaijan once again underlines that it shall never reconcile with the seizure of its territories. The resolution of the conflict is possible only on the basis of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan within its internationally recognized borders.

The principled basis for the settlement of the conflict is laid down in Security Council resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993) and General Assembly resolution 62/243, which condemn the use of force against Azerbaijan and occupation of its territories and reaffirm the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and the inviolability of its internationally recognized borders. In those resolutions, the United Nations reaffirmed that the Nagorno-Karabakh region is an inalienable part of Azerbaijan and demanded immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of the occupying forces from all occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

The responsibility for the consequences of any action which the Republic of Azerbaijan may be obliged to take in connection with the continued illegal presence of the Armenian armed forces and unlawful activities in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan in order to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity within the internationally recognized borders will lie entirely with the Republic of Armenia.

United Nations S/2015/326

Security Council

Distr.: General
8 May 2015

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the credentials of the representative of New Zealand on the Security Council

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received credentials signed on 8 May 2015 by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of New Zealand stating that Mr. Gerardus Jacobus van Bohemen has been appointed representative of New Zealand on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, these credentials are in order.

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United Nations A/ES-10/679–S/2015/327

General Assembly
Security Council

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12 May 2015

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 11 May 2015 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

In both word and deed, the new Israeli Government is proving its anti-peace, anti-two-State stance as it persists with unlawful policies and practices entrenching its illegitimate occupation and colonization of the State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, and systematically and grossly violating the human rights of the Palestinian people.

From the composition of Prime Minister Netanyahu's Cabinet, including a Justice Minister who is on record as calling for violence and destruction against the Palestinian people and calling Palestinian children "little snakes"; to recent announcements to carry on with settlement activities in Occupied East Jerusalem and, particularly, in the so-called "E1 area"; to demolitions of Palestinian properties and seizure of Palestinian homes by settlers; to the forced displacement of hundreds more Palestinian civilians in the West Bank; to the ongoing inhumane and suffocating blockade against the Gaza Strip; to the arrest of more than 100 Palestinians, including children, in the span of just one week; and to the ongoing violent assaults on Palestinian civilians by the Israeli occupying forces and settlers — it is clear that Israel, the occupying Power, is not interested in peace and intends to persist with its destructive and colonial occupation policies in grave breach of international law, flagrant violation of United Nations resolutions and absolute contempt of the international community.

On 7 May, shortly after the formation of the new Israeli Government, an announcement was made regarding the approval for construction of 900 more settlement units in the so-called "Ramat Shlomo" settlement in Occupied East Jerusalem. This approval of a previously declared plan will facilitate the actual construction of hundreds more units, to which hundreds more Israeli settlers will be transferred by the occupying Power, in direct contravention of article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention as well as other relevant provisions of international law,

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including the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Such actions further undermine the contiguity of the Palestinian land and the viability of the two-State solution, making a mockery of international calls and efforts to salvage and actually implement that solution.

Clearly, this extremist government is bent on pursuing the aggressive, unlawful measures that have been Israeli policy for decades with the aim of pushing the Palestinian people off their land. In addition to settlement expansion, on 4 May, the occupying Power approved plans for the demolition of tents and homes in the village of Khirbet Susiya, near Al-Khalil, in order to advance plans to build a park for settlers in the area. If not stopped, such demolitions will render homeless 450 Palestinians, including 120 children, and forcibly displace them from their land, in breach of international law.

Palestinian civilians in the northern Jordan Valley also continue to be displaced as a result of so-called "military training exercises". Bedouin and herding communities have repeatedly borne the brunt of such practices. Recently, 320 Palestinians were temporarily forced to leave their homes and livestock owing to these activities, which, in the past, have led to the destruction of Palestinian land and property in the area, including the burning of 3,000 dunums of crops after a fire caused by military drills on 28 April and the burning of 5,000 dunums of land on 4 May owing to heavy military fire. Such Israeli practices are widely considered to be among the many means used to engender fear and uncertainty among Palestinians in the Jordan Valley area, increasing pressure on them to leave their land and thus facilitating further de facto annexation by the occupying Power.

Simultaneously, Israeli settlers continue their terror rampages and seizures of Palestinian properties in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Recently, this has included assaults on Palestinian men, another hit-and-run incident in which a five-year-old Palestinian child was struck by a settler's car and the destruction of a water network affecting at least 40 homes in Al-Khalil. Also, on 6 May, in the Silwan neighbourhood of Occupied East Jerusalem, a group of Israeli extremists, comprising 20 settler youth and backed by occupying forces, overtook yet another Palestinian home, raiding and seizing the home while the Palestinian family that owns the home was away. Such settler depravity is undoubtedly fuelled by the constant provocation and incitement by Israeli political leaders, including members of the new Israeli Government, and by the absolute impunity enjoyed by the settlers, who are never held accountable for their crimes against Palestinians.

This protection crisis persists also as a result of the excessive, indiscriminate force constantly used by the occupying forces against the Palestinian civilian population in breach of international humanitarian law. Military raids in which civilians are shot at are the daily norm in the West Bank and civilians in the blockaded Gaza Strip, particularly near the border areas and at sea, also continue to be targeted by Israeli fire. Moreover, the occupying forces continue to fire at civilian demonstrators, including, most recently, during demonstrations marking World Press Freedom Day, during which at least 13 Palestinians, including two children and five journalists, were injured.

Moreover, Palestinian civilians continue to be targeted for arrest and detention by the Israeli occupying forces, with an average of 100 persons arrested per week, including children and women, in violation of the Geneva Conventions. Their plight during incarceration is marked by unbearable physical and psychological

mistreatment and grave affronts to their human dignity. In this regard, I draw attention to the arrest of another democratically elected Palestinian official, Khalida Jarrar, a parliamentarian in the Palestinian Legislative Council. Ms. Jarrar was seized from her home by occupying forces in Ramallah on 2 April and sentenced to a six-month administrative detention. She has clearly been targeted for her peaceful, non-violent, legitimate activities in rejection of the occupation, similar to so many Palestinian political prisoners. We call for her immediate release and the release of Palestinian prisoners and detainees so wrongfully being held captive by Israel.

We reiterate the call on the international community to uphold its responsibilities, especially the Security Council, to put an end to Israel's settlement colonization, destructive measures and collective punishment of the Palestinian people. Collective and concrete action is needed to hasten the end of this illegitimate, immoral and inhumane occupation and the realization of Palestinian freedom. We will continue to seek the support and action of the international community for this objective and continue our pursuit of all peaceful, political and legal means to achieve the rights of the Palestinian people, including through our status as the 123rd State party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, a non-violent, legal path to confront Israeli impunity and attain justice for our people.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 542 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 1 May 2015 (A/ES-10/678-S/2015/309), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed against the Palestinian people. Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer
of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/69/899–S/2015/328

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
12 May 2015
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 35
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 11 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to inform that, at 1040 hours on 14 April 2015, in the Hamra area on the outskirts of Aytarun, a landmine left behind by the Israeli enemy exploded, severing the left leg of the civilian Muhammad Ibrahim Murad. The victim was taken to Salah Ghandur Hospital in Bint Jubayl.

I should like to reiterate that my Government honours its commitments under international resolutions. On behalf of my Government, I call on the Security Council to condemn this attack in the strongest possible terms and compel Israel to bring an end to its violations of Lebanese sovereignty by air, sea and land, and fulfil all of its obligations under Security Council resolution 1701 (2006).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 35, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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